

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

MAY 1941



Photo by William B. Wright, Deeth, Nevada

THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

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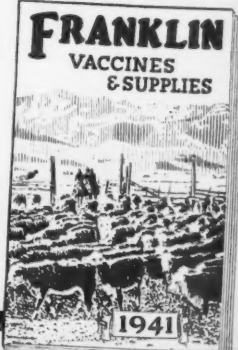


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LETTERS

SCREWORMS

I have been reading your valued paper for years and have read articles about screwworms elsewhere. You issued a warning, "Expect Screwworm Pest in South and Southwest" [a Department of Agriculture release], on page 16 of your April issue.

From my experience, I have found screwworms do not survive the tenth day. They are not from a green fly but are from a large gray fly. The screwworms are not hatched. They are born. The mother fly does not lay eggs but she lays a living, crawling worm that goes to work immediately.

Never have I found where they spread by shipment of infested stock. Once a worm drops out of a wound he dies. It is true he kills millions of dollars worth of stock each year. They are very bad on calves when they are born, as the worm gets into their navel and often kills them before the calf is found by man.

A wise cowman does not brand in June, July, or August unless it is absolutely necessary. Then he finds he must keep a crew riding to fight the worm. The screwworm is very bad in Arizona, particularly during the three months of summer. In 1940, in the Prescott district, the screwworms were bad up until the first week in November. In the lower desert country they are bad nine months of the year.

I have been fighting the screwworm for over thirty-five years. Never have I found blood poisoning where there are screwworms.—H. W. FRITSCH, Yavapia County, Ariz.

SIGNS OF SPRING

We are still surrounded in these parts with approximately eighteen inches of snow, but signs of spring are showing daily.—DAN CLARK, Fremont County, Ida.

BEST PROSPECTS

We have the best prospects for early grass that we have had for years. The winter has been exceptionally wet and mild. Cattle have wintered well and will be ready for the market forty-five days earlier than usual. There are not many steers on full feed here this year, but we have lots of heifers.—SLOCUM BROS., Hood County, Tex.

YEAR ROUND GRAZING

It may be hard for southern cattle growers to realize that away up here, pretty near to the Canadian border, we can graze our cattle the year around, this year being exceptionally good, with not very much snow and plenty of grass. The middle of March a neighbor of mine rounded up his cows that are to calve,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

May, 1941

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WRITE FOR CATALOG

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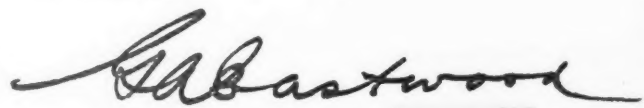
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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XXII

MAY 1941

Number 12

MANAGING THE RANGES FOR NATIONAL NEEDS

By R. S. CAMPBELL

United States Forest Service

PROSPECTS FOR WESTERN CATTLEMEN are bright at the moment. Beef cattle prices are fairly high and the Department of Agriculture predicts increasing domestic demand for meat accompanying expanding industrial employment and higher pay rolls in connection with the nation's defense program. Furthermore, meat, hides, and wool have been declared as essential defense commodities by the defense commission. Just how all this will affect the range cattle business only time will tell. But the situation warrants a careful size up to see if there are range management features that will help the industry meet national needs and benefit the individual ranchers as well. Forest ranges need especial attention because of the variety of resources involved.

The sheer magnitude of the great western range almost defies comprehension. Its 728,000,000 acres, an area equal to two-fifths of the entire United States, is used by a livestock industry with billions of dollars invested in lands and livestock. From the western range come a third of the nation's cows and calves, in pounds of live weight, 55 per

cent of the sheep and lambs, and three-fourths of the wool and mohair.

Forest ranges comprise 158,000,000 acres, equal in size to the combined area of the states of Colorado and Montana. Supporting more or less widely spaced trees with intermingled grassy meadows and browse thickets, they constitute one of the largest and most widely distributed western range types. Forest ranges are an indispensable part of the whole, and their importance in western livestock production cannot be overemphasized. They furnish summer range where fat calf and lamb are grown cheaply on succulent grasses, weeds, and browse. They fill the need for forage during a season when crops are growing and no other sufficient source of feed is available.

Forest ranges are usually thought of as mainly national forests, and it is true that two-fifths of the area is in fairly large blocks of land administered by the Forest Service. The 80,000,000 acres of forest and high mountain grass range within the national forests graze some 11,000,000 livestock during part or all of the year. However, a third of the western forest ranges is privately owned,

and only through careful management of the whole will prospective national needs be fully met.

The great bulk of the non-timbered or open ranges is usually valued mainly for its forage, but forest ranges have many other usable resources, all requiring careful management to remain fully productive. Timber, of course, is obvious and will continue to be important as long as wood is used for fuel, fence posts, buildings, railroad ties, mine props, telephone poles, paper, and hundreds of other purposes.

Forest ranges are no less important for watershed values, for the high mountain ranges are the principal water-yielding areas of major streams, upon which is founded our huge western irrigation agriculture, with an investment of some \$6,000,000,000. Furthermore, forest ranges have unquestioned values for wildlife and for recreation. No one appreciates a reasonable number of deer, game birds, and other wildlife better than the western stockman who thoroughly enjoys his "home on the range." But to the office or factory employee working under crowded, unnatural conditions, the open range, the quiet forest, and the trout stream have powers of restoring both body and mind that cannot be expressed in dollars and cents. This use promises to be even more important in the days ahead as national preparedness efforts put an increasing strain on every individual.



Purebred Hereford cattle on summer range in Gallatin National Forest, Montana.

Forest Service Photo

Sustained Production from Range Lands

American agriculture generally is better prepared at the moment than any other industry to produce its share of materials needed by the nation. Certainly no immediate shortage in meat for domestic needs is anticipated. However, in addition to increasing demand for meat in this country, who can predict the circumstances under which America may be called upon to make up the food shortages of hungry Europe, just as was done in World War I? Certainly the rise and fall of livestock numbers and prices accompanying the previous World War are too deeply branded on the memories and pocketbooks of western stockmen for them to desire any repetition of the lean days resulting from the collapse of an artificial demand.

The safest and most profitable action would seem to be to follow the example of a good roping horse, keeping a steady pull on the rope, and to aim toward sustained production and use of the range forage in good years and drought, in war times and peace. In attaining this goal for the whole range there are several broad problems which are being given serious consideration by the Department of Agriculture in the work of Forest Service and other bureaus, and in co-operation with other public agencies and with private stockmen. These problems and some of the steps being taken to meet them are indicated below. They apply equally to forested and to open ranges.

1. Overcoming the obstacles to sustained production on 375,000,000 acres of privately owned ranges.—Close co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and private owners already has achieved real benefits. For example, some 48,000 ranchers participated in the 1939 Agricultural Adjustment Administration range program, aiding them to

practice deferred grazing, reseed depleted ranges, install water facilities, build fences, and adjust rate of stocking to grazing capacity. Nearly 24,000,000 acres are in ranches and farms for which detailed land use plans have been developed with the Soil Conservation Service.

2. Attaining more rapid restoration and greater service to stockmen and associated communities on the 350,000,000 acres of publicly owned ranges through improved administration.—Management plans have been completed for some 7,000 of the 9,000 cattle and sheep allotments on the national forests. In managing these 80,000,000 acres of ranges, the Forest Service co-operates closely with more than 700 local livestock associations and advisory boards. The Grazing Service also is guided by conservation objectives in its management of the grazing districts under the Department of the Interior. Range improvements are an essential feature of the whole management program.

3. Correction of difficult land use problems through public acquisition of high value watershed lands and submarginal farms.—The largest program under this heading is that of the Soil Conservation Service which has taken some 9,000,000 acres not suited primarily to cultivation out of crop production and is restoring them to grass. Certain additions to national forests have been made and more are needed in the interest of more efficient management of forage, timber, and watersheds. The blocking up of scattered tracts of range in the interest of efficient management is an important part of the national forest acquisition program in the West.

4. Obtaining and making available information to aid in the restoration and management of ranges and in livestock production.—In view of the severe handicaps under which the range livestock

industry is forced to operate, the best and most up-to-date information is needed as to reseeding rundown range, development of range improvements, handling livestock, and improved systems of managing the range resource itself. The Department of Agriculture and the state experiment stations together are attacking some of the most pressing problems and making the results available to ranchers and administrators for application. The Forest Service has established forest and range experiment stations to carry on such research in each of the six major western regions. The work applies about equally to forest and open ranges and is conducted at several work centers. It includes not only detailed studies of the range forage as such but also careful experiments in artificial reseeding and in management of the range. A few striking examples will illustrate some features of good range management, show the results of the research, and indicate some of the problems requiring further experimental work.

In revegetating depleted high mountain ranges early studies showed that moist sites, especially mountain meadows, could be satisfactorily reseeded with Kentucky bluegrass and timothy. More recent tests have shown that mountain and smooth brome, slender wheatgrass, and bluestem are promising plants for reseeding most mountain ranges. For example, forage production was increased nine times with smooth brome on depleted oakbrush range in central Utah. In foothills, slender and bluebunch wheatgrass have done better than others. Crested wheatgrass has been especially successful on abandoned dry farms and depleted range lands of the northern portion of the range territory. Great savings and more positive results appear likely from further research to determine best species, sites, and methods of planting.

Another example will indicate the efficiency of adequate water and salting systems in managing forest ranges. On a national forest range on the Coconino Plateau in northern Arizona livestock in past years was found to be doing considerable damage to ponderosa pine seedlings. The range was poorly watered naturally, and studies showed that the main damage occurred in early summer before the summer rains produced abundant palatable growth of Arizona fescue and other grasses. Experiments indicated that the grazing damage was closely related to short feed and lack of stock water. The situation was corrected by the development of several small tanks, salting the outlying feed, and conserving stocking, so that damage was reduced and browsed pine seedlings regained vigor and natural form. Finally, with a five-months' summer season, the improved management added an estimated eighty pounds in gain per steer per year as compared with grazing pre-



Forest Service Photo

Forest ranges round out the year's feed requirements with succulent summer forage.

vious to the five-year experimental period.

Deferred grazing and its various modifications as a means of encouraging natural revegetation and maintenance of the range have been widely applied on national forests since they were devised in studies in Oregon starting in 1907. Over large areas this has improved the forage 50 per cent or more. Deferred grazing has also found wide acceptance among private ranchers. Thus, since the beginning of the AAA program, deferred grazing has been put into effect on some 66,000,000 acres.

Conservative Grazing Pays

Of all the range management practices, proper number of stock stands out as most important. Numerous cases can be cited to show that conservative grazing pays. Examples are afforded by research on the Jornada and Santa Rita experimental ranges of practical ranch size in the Southwest, on which conservative grazing and other improved range and herd management practices are in effect. During the past twenty-five years grazing capacity has been double, net calf production half again greater, and death losses only one-fifth to one-third those on comparable overgrazed ranges. The Santa Rita reports average calf crops over 80 per cent and losses less than 3 per cent, allowing an annual return of 8.13 per cent to the operator on a total investment of \$69.23 per cow.

Another range cattle experiment in eastern Montana proves conservative grazing profitable. Ranges stocked lightly, moderately, and heavily were studied by the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Montana State Agricultural Experiment Station. During six years the cows on year-long conservatively grazed range produced fifty-two pounds of calf weight annually per cow above the production on overgrazed range. The cost per pound for range and feed alone of producing these calves was 4½ cents on heavily grazed pastures and only 3½ cents on conservatively grazed range.

Results on many private ranges over the country are equally convincing as to the benefits of conservative grazing. The 80,000,000 acres of range land within the national forests has been administered since 1905 in the interest of sustained forage production, watershed protection, and the welfare of the 35,000 grazing permittees.

In its simplest terms conservative grazing means utilizing the forage no more than will assure the future vigor and growth of the important forage plants. It means stocking the range over the years at about 20 to 25 per cent below average annual forage production. Thus, sufficient herbage of the valuable range plants is left to insure reseeding each year and rapid range recovery after drought.



Forest Service Photo

Yearling steers on a cut-over meadow in Big Hole Basin, in Montana. Mountains of Beaverhead National Forest in background.

One final example will illustrate how conservative grazing should be applied on different kinds of range. The Inter-mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service has reported on two cattle experiments on mountain range in southern Utah. One range with an abundance of choice grasses, weeds, and browse produced gains on yearlings, two's, and three's, averaging about 240 pounds for a three and a half months' summer season, and maintained the range in good condition. Another range, supporting only 30 per cent of palatable grasses and weeds, was dominated by oak and other shrubs mostly of low relish to cattle. It was found unprofitable to graze to the point of full use of the oak, as the cattle gained only about 130 pounds per head on the average during a four months' summer season, or about 110 pounds less than on the grass range. Holding cattle on the oak range until the browse was reasonably fully utilized forced the animals to subsist on inferior forage for half the season and allowed poor gains or actual losses in weight during the latter part of the season. The consequences of such heavy use were so injurious to the main palatable plant species as to lead to their decline and disappearance from the range.

When the better forage was eliminated from the oakbrush range, very poor cattle gains were made throughout the season, the range was of questionable value for future grazing, and there was injury to timber reproduction and to the watershed. In view of these results, the

best summer use of such browse range is to graze it only to the degree that will not injure the grasses, weeds, and more palatable browse, even though this means but light use of the oak and other less palatable species.

These are some of the important problems of range research tackled already by the Forest Service; many yet remain, awaiting solution. In western ranch operation the future promises increasing rather than less complexity, in view of unsettled world conditions. But certain it is that the stockman who consistently employs conservative grazing and good management will be in a bettered position to adjust his business to fluctuating conditions in this country and abroad, and at the same time will be producing most efficiently for national needs. Co-operative effort is required between the stockmen and the Forest Service and other public agencies in planning action and needed studies that will lead to the wisest solutions of new problems as they arise.

TEXANS IN CONVENTION

SECRETARY HENRY BELL'S REPORT to the sixty-fifth annual convention of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association showed that during the past year the association had grown by 762 members and that during a four-year period there had been a 59 per cent increase in membership.

Cowmen from all the ranges in Texas and from adjoining states were present

at the meeting held at San Antonio, March 18-20.

Among business reports made the first day were those of the association's attorneys, Joe C. Montague, on legislative activities, and Charles A. Stewart, on transportation matters; A. E. Gates, chairman of the association's border fence committee; and various presidents of district livestock associations in Texas.

The convention proper opened with the annual address of president Jay Taylor, of Amarillo, and welcoming addresses. President J. P. Maddox, of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, responded to the welcomings.

Principal speaker on the opening day was Grover B. Hill, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, who discussed government work and cattle problems generally. Other speakers were Karl Olsen, Washington, D. C., member of the Council of National Defense; T. P. Priddie, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Houston; Dr. D. C. Cushing, senior entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology at Minard, who discussed the screwworm problem; John Moninger of the American Meat Institute, who stressed the value of the industry's campaign to educate consumers on the merits of meat; Joe Evans, El Paso; Dr. R. P. Marsteller, dean of the school of veterinary medicine at Texas A. and M. College; and Henry Burney, San Antonio lawyer.

A feature of the first afternoon session was the presentation of the film, "Meat and Romance," an educational movie put on by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

In the resolutions adopted, the stockmen favored—

Passage of the McCarran national animal theft bill which would make a federal felony of interstate transportation of stolen livestock.

Adequate appropriation for Livestock Sanitary Commission of Texas.

More liberal lending policy on federal land bank loans, "especially with respect to rates, policies, debt limit, and amortization payments."

Erection of a "border fence" between Texas and Mexico to help in prevention of spread of disease among cattle.

Economical method of eradication and control of brush.

Speed-up of defense program and endorsement of "legislation providing for prevention of harmful and impeding labor strikes before a proper time has elapsed to allow adjustment of differences."

Policy allowing "the pledgings of future allotments, if, as, and when grants are made by Congress and the practice approved by the AAA, to secure the completion of projects that cost in excess of the amount allotted for the current year during which such projects are started."

Horse racing bill.

Acts of the government "in taking steps to preserve our principles and proclaiming our willingness to serve our country as an association and as individ-

uals in whatever capacity necessary."

The stockmen opposed—

Any plan to establish a single rate for all classes of livestock. This resolution commended the work of the Livestock Traffic Association and the American National Live Stock Association in securing a "continuation of the spread in rail rates paid on stocker and feeder cattle as compared with beef cattle."

The move to bring agricultural labor under the operation of the Social Security Act or the Wages-and-Hours Law.

Importation of livestock or meat products from countries in which foot-and-mouth disease exists.

The association commended the American Meat Institute and National Live Stock and Meat Board in their advertising campaign and the BAI in its work with calfhood vaccination for Bang's disease.

All officers were re-elected: Jay Taylor, Amarillo, president; Claude K. McCan, Victoria, first vice-president; Holman Cartwright, Dinero, second vice-president; M. A. Fuller, Fort Worth, treasurer; Henry Bell, Fort Worth, secretary and general manager; Joe G. Montague, Fort Worth, attorney; and Charles Stewart, Fort Worth, traffic counsel.

El Paso was chosen as the 1942 convention city.

NEW MEXICO MEETING

THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE RECORD in the twenty-seven year history of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association was made at the organization's convention in Albuquerque on March 24-25. Over 1,000 cattlemen and members of their families attended to hear more than a score of speakers on livestock industry subjects.

Another record was reported in President Con Jackson's annual address, which informed the listeners that 1,200 cattlemen are now members of the association, as against 369 in 1939. The cattle industry in New Mexico is financially in the best condition it has enjoyed during the past twenty years, Mr. Jackson declared. "We are in good shape now as individuals, as an association, and as an industry. Let us keep our eyes and ears wide open, our feet firmly on the solid ground in the next few years."

President Jackson said that "uncertainty of the times placed a heavy responsibility of watchfulness over the welfare of the industry and a duty of continued expansion of the organization's membership until we can speak as a single, united, powerful voice for the protection and progress of our industry. . . . Our goal is 5,000."

Welcoming addresses were given by Albuquerque's mayor, Clyde Tingley, and President Oscar Love of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. Captain Burton C. Mossman, of Roswell, answered the addresses of welcome.

The United States meat industry will

be given full opportunity to contribute to the defense program in supplying meat needs, and domestic purchases will receive first call, the stockmen were told by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association. He said that limited purchases from South America, widely reported in recent news items, will be far overshadowed by increased domestic purchases of dressed beef, frozen cuts, and a new type of emergency field ration (canned) with a high percentage of beef. Mollin said that the Army agreed to broaden its purchases to include heifer beef; to consider purchases on the basis of the federal grading standards which the livestock industry has long advocated; to lower beef weights in its purchase specifications; to purchase large quantities of the type "C" ration mentioned above; and to widen buying of lamb and pork.

In addition, and most important, there is greater acceptance in Washington today, Mollin said, of the soundness of the position the national association has long taken in favor of maintaining a rigid embargo on imports of dressed meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

F. R. Carpenter, of Hayden, Colorado, speaking on the "Future of Public Land Grazing in the United States," said that the Taylor Grazing Law, which he was the first to administer, brings to its management the best men in the cattle and sheep industry by placing them on administrative boards. He joined Mollin in saying that cattlemen should be members of livestock associations and that the associations should be aggressive.

The score or more of speakers at the meeting also included the following, with their subjects listed: C. R. Arnold, production credit manager of the Farm Credit Administration—"Sound Use of Livestock Credit;" Jay Taylor, president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Fort Worth, Texas—"Greetings from Texas;" Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's Livestock Bureau, Chicago—"The War and World Meat Trade;" R. C. Pollock, general manager, National Live Stock and Meat Board, Chicago—"Defense and Meat Advertising." Pollock told the convention that per capita consumption of meat in 1940 was 10 pounds greater than in 1939.

Second-day speakers included D. L. Mullendore, president, Production Credit Association of Wichita—"Soundness of Co-operation in Production;" J. A. McNaughton, general manager, Los Angeles Union Stock Yards Company—"Looking West Toward Marketing Opportunities;" John Moninger, American Meat Institute, Chicago—"Meat in the American Menu;" Homer Berkshire, Albuquerque, New Mexico—"Swift Trip;" Eugene J. Hayward, Jr., Cimarron, New Mexico—"Grazing and Selling Cattle as a Business in Argentina;" and W. R. Ritchie, Kansas City Union Stock Yards Company—"Relationship Between Central Terminal Markets and New Mexico

Growers;" R. H. Rutledge, director of grazing, Department of the Interior; George F. Ellis, extension animal husbandman, State College, New Mexico; Elliott Barker, state game warden—"National Defense and Our National Resources;" and Floyd W. Lee, president of the New Mexico Wool Growers' Association—"Common Problems of Cattle and Wool Growers."

The stockmen, in their resolutions, pledged support to the national defense program by providing an adequate meat supply and promised there would be "no combination to fix prices."

Other resolutions approved in principle the work being done under the AAA and asked that it be conducted on a practical and economical basis; endorsed the Johnson bill, S.1030, which is designed to "safeguard tenure, conservation, and stabilization of the use of forest lands;" asked for right of court review in the Department of the Interior's rulings on public lands; endorsed the McCarran national animal theft bill which would make it a federal felony to transport stolen livestock across a state line; commended the Bureau of Animal Industry for "the very careful and painstaking research" made in the Bang's disease problem, resulting in removal of the threat of the compulsory blood test and slaughter program; reiterated opposition to any modification of the embargo applying to countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

The stockmen asked that transfer of grazing lands be made without cuts and that if such are found necessary they be made proportionately on users of the areas to be reduced "and not be inflicted upon individuals who desire to transfer their grazing privileges," and that the transfer of grazing rights be made only with the transfer of the base properties and not with the livestock alone.

They endorsed the principles of the Taylor Grazing Act and commended Grazing Director Rutledge for his work; expressed concern at the withdrawals of lands for enlargement or creation of national parks, reservations, or monuments, "or for any other purpose without consent of the state."

They commended the efforts of the National Livestock and Meat Board and the American Meat Institute in their meat publicity work; deplored a recent attack on hide prices as being unwarranted under the present situation; and recommended that "all grazing lands bought by federal government be turned over to the public land agency administering public grazing lands under a basic law."

The stockmen recommended changes in the Taylor Grazing Act, as follows: (1) That regulations relating to use be not in conflict with the part of the act which attaches such use to commensurate property; (2) that the director continue to issue ten-year permits and to fix carrying capacity upon a flexible basis, using average number of stock kept on a given range over a ten-year

period as a guide for fixing carrying capacity; (3) that exchanges be permitted to accommodate holder of allotment and so confined and no exchange with a state or outside interest be permitted if the exchange upsets an established ranch unit; (4) that conservation and improvement work under the CCC be done in project areas on non-federal lands, with the owners' consent, as well as on federal lands; (5) that the range survey program now being carried on by various bureaus be merged; (6) that the privilege of non-use be permitted with full payment on the carrying capacity when sufficient feed is grown, and without pay under drought conditions.

One of the resolutions made a number of recommendations on state legislative matters. The members protested against any attempts to relax the regulations of the New Mexico Cattleman's Sanitary Board covering inspection of cattle. The *New Mexico Stockman*, under the management of Horace B. Henning, was endorsed. A number of resolutions were devoted to commendation to the various state departments dealing in livestock matters.

Tom Clayton, of Separ, was elected president; and Albuquerque was chosen as the 1942 convention city. Vice-presidents elected to serve with Clayton are Eugene J. Hayward, Cimarron; J. L. Black, El Paso; Joe J. Lane, Jr., Caprock; and B. A. Christmas, Las Cruces. Horace B. Henning, of Albuquerque, was renamed secretary by the executive board.

UTAH CATTLEMEN MEET

UTAH STOCKMEN TURNED OUT
500 strong for the Salt Lake City convention of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association on April 4-5.

Convention activities got under way with addresses by President L. C. Montgomery of the Utah association, Heber City, Utah, and J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, Wyoming, president of the American National Live Stock Association. Also heard in the opening day's session was Grazing Director R. H. Rutledge who detailed the operations of the division which he heads.

Among other speakers were F. R. Carpenter, Hayden, Colorado; Chester J. Olsen, Ogden, Utah; Harry H. Smith, Utah State Agricultural College; C. E. Favre, Ogden; Davenport R. Phelps, Chicago; F. P. Champ, Logan Utah; J. Elmer Brock, president of the American National Live Stock Association; Earle G. Reed, Omaha; and J. M. Conover, Ferron, Utah.

Delegates to the twenty-third annual convention were given an opportunity to see the bull presented last year by Sears Roebuck and Company to the livestock industry of Utah to further the state's better beef-cattle program. The bull, National Western champion Advance Domino 3d, was brought in from the

Utah State Agricultural College at Logan.

In their resolutions the Utah cattlemen pledged their support to the nation's defense program.

They acknowledged "the constructive work of both the Forest Service and the Grazing Service," but deplored any development of antagonism between the two groups. "If eventually it becomes necessary to consolidate these agencies, the cattlemen will naturally favor the service that has been the most sympathetic to their cause."

The governor of the state and the state legislature were commended for establishing a livestock commissioner office.

One of the resolutions stated that no Utah lands, except those necessary for national defense, should be acquired by the federal government without approval of the state.

The Bureau of Animal Industry was commended for its research work in calf-hood vaccination against Bang's disease. A resolution asked that fees collected from the levy on range cattle for eradication of the disease be used for the purpose of vaccination.

S.B. 1030, introduced by Senator Johnson (Colorado), pertaining to the management and administration of national forest grazing lands, was favored.

The stockmen asked that valuations of private Utah grazing lands be reduced to a point comparable with other taxable property in the state.

In a resolution dealing with the wildlife problem, opposition to further reduction of livestock on the forests or public domain until the big game problem is solved was expressed. Endorsement was given to the Utah Private Land Protective Association, and recommendations were made that licensed hunters be allowed three deer, one of which may be a buck.

It was urged that efforts be continued with regard to better heading, feeding, and culling of livestock and that uniform regulations be encouraged as to age, number, and quality of bulls used on the range.

The legislature was urged to enact a fence law, if the railroad or state road commission failed to make fair settlement for damages to livestock.

A resolution on transportation matters urged that whatever motor vehicle the stockman may use, it should not be classed along with and made subject to rules applicable to "for hire" carriers. The stockmen requested that railroad companies provide caretakers or owners of livestock with transportation on passenger trains to and from destination of livestock.

One of the resolutions favored "leasing of state lands in place." It was explained that the policy of exchanging school section lands for lands in blocks, urged by certain groups, would tend to burden users of adjacent land with unfair competition in leasing.

The stockmen opposed any change in classification in base properties "as recommended by the advisory committee on revision of the code under the Taylor Grazing Act and recommend that they remain as now in the 1938 code, which means that class one forage land is dependent on both location and use."

The Department of Agriculture was urged to re-establish the parity price of beef, fixed at \$6.67 per cwt., to take into consideration increased cost of production.

President L. C. Montgomery was re-elected, as were the following vice-presidents: J. A. Scorup, Moab; H. L. Allred, Roosevelt; J. T. Finlinson, Leamington; Frank Paxton, Kanosh; and John King, Boulder. David Theurer, Providence, was named a vice-president to succeed George O. Webb, Richmond, who was not a candidate for the office again. R. V. Broadhurst, Salt Lake City, is association secretary.

NOTES ON MEETINGS

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4, A STATE-wide livestock meeting sponsored by the Colorado Agricultural College Extension Service was held at Denver, Colorado. Attended by more than 700 stockmen, who enjoyed a series of interesting talks on cattle feeding, grazing, forage plants, conservation, and other subjects, the meeting closed with a banquet at which L. M. Pexton, of the Denver Union

Stock Yards, served as toastmaster. Principal speaker at the banquet was former Governor Samuel R. McKelvie, of Nebraska, editor and publisher of the *Nebraska Farmer* and operator of the By-the-Way Ranch. McKelvie described operations on his ranch and discussed the cattle situation in general, with specific reference to the large increase in numbers.—L. F. MOLLIN.

PANHANDLE MEETING

Holding its annual meeting at Amarillo March 4, the Panhandle Livestock Association elected Jack Roach, Amarillo, as president. John C. Fain, Amarillo, was named first vice-president; and Jim Weymouth, Amarillo, second vice-president. Grover B. Hill, Amarillo, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, was returned as secretary. The association reaffirmed its campaign against scab, a livestock disease reported to have spread from Mexico into Texas and other southwestern states. The association asked the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association to join in a fight for regulation providing for dipping of cattle moved from Mexico into the United States. Other resolutions commended the traffic departments of the American National Live Stock Association and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association for securing a continuation of the 85 per cent rate on stocker and feeder cattle, the efforts of the American Meat Institute and the National Live Stock and Meat Board for their adver-

tising, and the Bureau of Animal Industry in its work with calfhood vaccination in the control of Bang's disease.


STOCKMEN SELECT OFFICERS

Members of the Washington County Live Stock Protective Association meeting recently in Akron, Colorado, elected 1941 officers as follows: Frank Loftiss, president; Fred P. Fassler, secretary-treasurer; Albert Knies, F. L. Gill, and Bill Gebauer, directors, according to Washington County Agent Charles Giles, Jr.

WESTERN NEBRASKA SALE

An excellent bull sale was held by the Western Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Association at Alliance on April 1. The Alliance Livestock Commission Company's pavilion was filled to capacity. Top ten bulls averaged \$315. Total offering of ninety-six bulls averaged \$187. Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska were represented among the buyers. Offerings were mainly of range bulls ready to go this spring. The sale was managed by Levi Hahn, who worked with H. J. Krause, well-known Hereford breeder of Alliance, Nebraska. The first sale was held about a year ago, and there have been three sales since that time. Among the consignors were: Del J. Bigelow, Harrison; Hubert Forney and Son, Lakeside; Carl Hahn and Sons, Hay Springs; Lloyd Lockman, Alliance; Orla O. Rucker, Chadron; William Hern,

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* State laboratories and universities are qualified to make these examinations; where such service is not available, Cutter Laboratories will make them without charge.

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BLACKLEGOL
immunity
at least 99.999%
certain**



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Chadron; Roy Armstrong, Hemingford; Henry Steffensen, Chadron; Paul Armstrong, Hemingford; John H. Bennett, Hay Springs; Frances C. Howe, Alliance; H. E. James, Scottsbluff; C. H. Lundy and Son, Hay Spring; Mary M. McDonald, Berea; Sam McKelvie, Wood Lake; William Montague, Hemingford; Fred Potter, Bingham; Walter Scott and Sons, Chadron; Eugene Thurston, Hyannis; Cal Westover; C. E. Wilson and Son, Lakeside; and C. R. Wolfenden, Kennedy.—L. F. MOLLIN.

NORTHERN COLORADO SALE

The twelfth semi-annual auction of the Northern Colorado Hereford Breeders, held April 8 at Greeley, Colorado, was under the able management of Stow L. Witwer, widely experienced in this work for many years. The sixty bulls averaged \$172, and the seventeen females, which were all open heifers, averaged \$106. There was not a great deal of spread in the prices, but the cattle sold very well at even levels. The average for the seventy-seven head was \$158. It was an all-round good sale.—L. F. MOLLIN.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS SHOW

W. H. Tomhave, secretary of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association, has announced that the association will hold its first national Aberdeen-Angus show at Dallas, Texas, October 4-19. The show will be held in

conjunction with the Texas State Fair. Ten thousand dollars is being offered in premiums, which sum is provided jointly by the Texas State Fair and the Angus association. The officers of the association are especially pleased to hold the association's first national show in Texas because of the great interest in Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the southwestern states. The Texas State Fair is one of the largest and best attended fairs in the country. In 1940, 1,250,000 people passed through the gates. In addition to the show, a sale of Aberdeen-Angus breeding cattle will be held.

POLLED SHORTHORN CONGRESS

The first national Polled Shorthorn congress will be held at the state fairgrounds, Des Moines, Iowa, on May 20-21. Eighty head (thirty bulls and fifty females) will be featured in the two-day show and sale. The first day will be devoted to the show, with the sale coming the following day.

COCHISE-GRAHAM GROUP IN ARIZONA HOLDS MEETING

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL convention of the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers' Association, held at Willcox, Arizona, on April 5, registered more than 200 cattlemen and women.

President Charles McKinney, of Courtland, called on Harry Saxon, of Willcox,

to welcome the visitors. Response was given by Ralph Cowan, of McNeal, and Warner Mattice. Representing the governor was Jim Smith, of Safford. "He said he thought cattlemen should keep out of politics," writes Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, in that organization's "News Letter." "Later in the program, Bill Peterson, corporation commissioner, advised the cattlemen to get into politics. So we had the two schools of thought at the same meeting. We have never heard anyone advise any other group of people to stay out of politics, but we have often heard individuals advising cattlemen to stay out, and we've never been able to figure out whether they thought the cattlemen would contaminate politics, or it them."

Other speakers included President McKinney, Louie Horrell, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; Dr. P. S. Burgess, dean, State College of Agriculture; E. B. Stanley, animal husbandman; Tom Rigden, extension animal husbandman; Smith Pickrell, secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Livestock Production Credit Association; Bill Alberts, state land commissioner; Milton Reed, acting regional grazier with the Taylor Grazing Service; H. Garvin Smith, deputy supervisor of the Coronado National Forest.

John P. Cull was elected president, and Warner Mattice, vice-president. The group will meet in Bisbee in 1942.

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"Buying for the ranch or our feed lots, I've discovered this—whenever I run into a clean outfit it's an even bet they're using Cutter vaccines all the way down the line. For blackleg protection, for anthrax, shipping fever, abortion, calf scour—all Cutter vaccines are tops.

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If K.R.S. doesn't prove more effective than any killer or repellent, alone or in combination, you have ever used, return the empty can for a refund of your money.

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Control measures include the use of Cutter **HEMSEPTOL** or, where indicated, Cutter **PELMENAL**—two aluminum hydroxide absorbed vaccines which, like Cutter Blacklegol, have the effect of small repeated doses of ordinary bacterins.

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MEAT BOARD SENDS ITS EXPERTS INTO ARMY CAMPS

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND Meat Board in April entered into the second phase of a program to assist the Army in its meat problems.

Under the program a series of meat training schools is being held in thirty-one of the largest army camps in the country. These schools, of a week's duration at each post, are conducted by specialists from the Meat Board who have been working closely with the Army since the beginning of the year.

The first of the schools is being conducted in the east, west, and south areas of military activity. One key man from each regiment will be trained as a meat specialist so that he may, in turn, train others.

To obtain first-hand information on the army's meat problems, the Board's entire merchandising staff made a tour of Army posts. These meat specialists visited Army kitchens and conducted instruction and inspection meetings at many Army posts. As a result, the Board's men obtained a wide knowledge of the problems involved in feeding the soldiers. One by one, they have worked out answers to each problem, and as new ones present themselves these men will be on hand to offer the benefit of their experience.

One of the Army's problems in the cutting of meat has been to obtain roasts of uniform weight and size. The Board's merchandising staff worked out new and revolutionary methods for breaking up carcass meat and wholesale cuts to produce boneless roasts of uniform weight and size. Thus, carving of uniform slices is made easier and cooking is simplified.

In the Army diet, meat, because of its high nutritive value, is the basic part of each meal. This is strikingly evidenced in the fact that the present Army meat ration is more than twice as much as the per capita civilian consumption of last year.

LETTER CONTENTS PRICES OF HIDES NOT TOO HIGH

CONTROVERTING THE STATEMENT that a recent rise in hide prices put them out of line, F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, in a letter to Leon Henderson, commissioner of price stabilization of the National Defense Advisory Commission, explains the salutary effect that a reasonable price for hides has on the beef carcass price:

"I have before me copy of your release of March 17 relative to hide prices. I have been at a loss to understand why you should consider hide prices, even with the slight advance you mention, as being out of line. As a matter of fact, just before the war started in September, 1939, hides were selling at extremely low levels, so low that there was tre-

mendous loss in farm hides that were not valuable enough even to bother to get to market. With the beginning of the war there was a modest advance, so that heavy native steer hides for the remainder of 1939 sold around 14 to 15 cents. During 1940 they again slumped down to as low as 10 cents a pound, and the recent advance only puts them up to around 15 cents, which certainly is not an unreasonable price for such hides.

"In view of the fact that we import large quantities of hides, it seems only right and proper that every effort should be made to conserve the full available domestic supply, and this can only be done when prices are allowed to become fairly remunerative.

"Our association does not wish to see runaway prices either on hides or beef, but we think it possible that you have overlooked the very direct connection there is between the price of beef and the price of hides and other by-products.

"I have watched this matter over a long period of years. For many years the Bureau of Agricultural Economics published a table showing prices of live steers, wholesale steer carcasses, and trimmed retail cuts therefrom. I have before me such a table covering the years 1924 to 1933, inclusive, and in all but five months of that period the price of fifty-eight pounds of good steer beef derived from 100 pounds of "good steer" sold in New York for less than the 100 pounds of steer cost in Chicago.

"I think if you will examine current figures you will find that the same situation obtains and that the by-products pay the cost of slaughtering, processing, distribution, packer's profit, and a slight amount of the first cost of the steer. Of these by-products, the hide is by far the most valuable. Ordinarily, in the case of steers, it is worth about 50 per cent of the total value of all by-products, and, in the case of cows, particularly those of lower grade, as high as 60 per cent.

"In view of these facts, it seems to us that hides should not be considered as a separate and distinct commodity but instead, as suggested above, in connection with the closely related product, beef.

"I hope, therefore, that you will not put on the brakes too hard on hides but permit them to sell at a reasonable price and thus, to that extent, lighten the net cost of the beef carcass, all to the end that beef may be kept for the consumers of the country likewise on a reasonable price basis. I believe it is far more to their advantage to save a little bit on the beef than it is to save a nickel or two on the price of a pair of shoes. I do not believe that anyone will benefit substantially by too severe handling of this matter, except the shoe manufacturers."

FOREST SYSTEM 50 YEARS OLD

On March 30 the national forest system reached its fiftieth year mark. The beginning of the system was a tract of 1,250,000 acres in Wyoming set aside by President Benjamin Harrison. This tract is now part of the Shoshone and Teton national forests in Wyoming. The present system includes 160 national forests and nearly one-tenth of the land area of the United States.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE?

IT IS HARDLY PROBABLE THAT European markets will offer much of an outlet for long for American agricultural products after the war is over, says O. C. Stine in the Department of Agriculture's *Agricultural Situation*:

"Perhaps we cannot be very realistic now in appraising what markets Europe will offer to us when peace is re-established there. Certainly the winner and the conditions of peace will have some effects upon those markets. If the markets are opened—whoever will win the war—there will be an accumulated demand for cotton and for some foodstuffs from the United States and other overseas countries.

"We may find at the end of the war an opportunity to unload a part of our holdings of cotton, but not as much as has already accumulated. . . . We can hardly expect to find an outlet for much wheat, in view of all the surpluses accumulating elsewhere. . . . We may find an outlet for some lard and pork, and some more fruits and vegetables.

"It seems hardly probable, however, that the European markets will offer much of an outlet to the United States for long, whoever wins the war. European purchasing power will again be short, and there will be a strong incentive for increasing domestic production. The competition to be expected from other countries for the European market will be undiminished. We must prepare to absorb our own production to a much greater extent than we did in the 1920's following the World War."

CALNDAR

MAY—

- 14-16—Idaho State Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n Convention, Idaho Falls.
- 15-17—Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n Convention, Ontario.
- 19-20—North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n Convention, Mandan.
- 19—Dean Ranch Hereford Auction, Fort Worth, Tex.
- 20-21—National Polled Shorthorn Congress, Des Moines, Ia.
- 22-24—Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Great Falls.
- 23-24—Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, Davenport.

JUNE

- 3-5—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Worland.
- 9-11—South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n, Rapid City.
- 12-14—Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Ogallala.
- 16-18—Second Annual Colorado Hereford Breeders' Tour.
- 19-21—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Alamosa.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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CATTLE NUMBERS INCREASE

IN PREVIOUS EDITORIALS WE have called attention to the fact that cattle numbers have been rather sharply increased each year for the past three years, and that if the same rate of increase continues for the year 1941 as was registered in 1940 we will have on January 1, 1942, the greatest number of cattle ever recorded in this country.

In this connection it is worth while to study the slaughter figures with the idea of getting a light on where we are going in this matter of cattle production. The slaughter of she-stuff is highly significant because it indicates whether cattle producers are increasing or decreasing their breeding herds.

To go back a ways, it will be observed that in 1931 we recorded the smallest slaughter of cows and heifers shown since the year 1919. In that year 41.75 per cent of the total slaughter under federal inspection was cows and heifers. From that point the slaughter of she-stuff increased to 42.06 per cent in 1932, to 44.09 per cent in 1933, and to 48.67 per cent in 1934. Yet it is highly significant to note that, despite this fact, cattle numbers continued to increase during that period until 1934, there being 63,030,000 head on January 1, 1931; 65,770,000 head January 1, 1932; 70,214,000 head January 1, 1933; and 74,262,000 head on January 1, 1934. With the aid of the heavy government slaughter program in 1934, cattle numbers tumbled to 68,529,000 on January 1, 1935, but had it not been for this government program doubtless the increase would have continued for at least another year despite the increase in slaughter of she-stuff.

The slaughter of she-stuff continued relatively large for the years 1935, 1936, and 1937, 56.02 per cent being shown the

first year of that period, 52.19 the next, 55.85 the last year, while total cattle numbers recorded a slight decrease, dropping from 68,529,000 January 1, 1935, to 67,929,000 January 1, 1936, 66,803,000 January 1, 1937, and 66,083,000 January 1, 1938.

Then we came to the turn of the production cycle, and likewise a turn in the slaughter of she-stuff. It dropped to 49.7 per cent in 1938, 47.05 per cent in 1939, and 45.93 per cent in 1940. The record of the past would indicate that it will take at least two or three years to step up the slaughter of she-stuff sufficiently to halt the increase in production unless stockmen take note of the perils of having too unwieldy a supply of cattle on hand at the termination of the present war emergency and deliberately increase their marketings and at the same time the size of their bank accounts while the going is good. If no steps are taken along this line it is entirely possible that we may come close to the 80,000,000 mark in cattle numbers before the turn is reached, and unless consumer buying power can be kept up to somewhere near the present level—and in the past all efforts at such stability have proved unsuccessful—that will be quite a few too many cattle. Think it over.

THE GILLETTE BILL

AFTER A LAPSE OF SEVERAL years, the fight on direct marketing has been renewed with the introduction of the Gillette bill, S. 1199, sponsored by the United States Live Stock Association, long recognized as spokesman, not of producers, but of certain Missouri River market interests.

Aside from the fact that the livestock producers are perfectly capable of initiating legislation in their own interest, whenever convinced of the need for same, and naturally resent any effort on the part of market interests to tell them how they shall market their own livestock, no worse time could possibly have been picked to reopen this old fight than

the present. If ever there was a time when every element of the livestock industry needed to pull together it is now. No greater emergency ever faced this nation and every citizen therein. No one can foretell the struggles, the sacrifices, the complex problems that certainly lie ahead.

Domestically the situation is already difficult. With rising costs on every hand, the short-sighted price control set-up, thinking only of consumer interests, is insisting that there shall be no price advances. Hide prices, although not out of line, have already been the subject of unwarranted attack. Meat prices may be next. Only a combined effort on the part of all interested can hold the line for the industry today and meet whatever situations may arise.

Unfortunately, too, if the Gillette bill is pushed, it will undo much of the good that has come in recent years from co-operative efforts in behalf of the industry on the part of many market interests. They have realized that the way to get business is to sell producers on the idea of wanting to ship to their markets. This throwback to the producer-be-damned era, unless sidetracked in time, will start a fight that can do the industry and the markets a great deal of damage. It is to be hoped that the futility of such an effort will soon become apparent and that the energies of producers and market agencies alike can be conserved to guard our mutual interests in the momentous times ahead.

DEFENSE BEEF PURCHASES

GENERAL ACCEPTANCE HAS been the tone of editorials and individual comment on the action in late February of the officers and legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association in consenting to the purchase of a limited amount of foreign canned beef for the armed forces.

PRODUCER readers are familiar with the explanation of the matter as made by association representatives. In brief, the Washington conference with Army officials and others resulted in broadening specifications for beef purchases for armed forces which will increase domestic buying of dressed beef, frozen cuts, and a new type of emergency field ration (canned) containing a high percentage of beef to wholly overshadow the foreign purchases. The approval given was only for the period of the emergency or until heavier marketing develops here.

The representatives felt that the contribution would remove pressure for ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention which would permit importation of dressed meats from countries having foot-and-mouth disease. They said there was now greater acceptance in Washington than at any previous time of the soundness of the position of the American National that a rigid em-



bargo should apply to all such countries.

Some of the commentators have gone beyond the explanation mentioned to show that had defense orders been confined to the previous comparatively narrow range of grades and weights, the prices of such carcasses might have been forced so high that attendant publicity would have caused consumer resistance against all beef; they have pointed out that "it is the cattlemen's contribution to the defense program;" they have shown that while the purchases for the armed forces do not represent food for new mouths they do represent a rate of consumption for the forces twice that of the average citizen last year; and they have reasoned that it is better to keep the cattle business on an even keel and its increasing output on a sound and stable basis than

to rush into expansion that would provide a domestic source for every last pound of our emergency needs—perhaps to be followed by zooming prices and disastrous lows.

DISTRIBUTION VS. CONTROL

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE there are today two aspects of the farm problem that are interesting to speculate on. One is that presented by the adjustment administration which seeks control of production. The other is that introduced by the branch of the department which seeks outlets for surplus crops. Seven or eight million people living on farms are not needed to produce the nation's supply of food and fiber, says the Agricultural Adjustment

Administration. Under present world conditions, untapped markets here in the United States offer the best chance to provide adequate outlets for our farm products, says the Surplus Marketing Administration.

Those holding to the view that production must be controlled have found the problem to be a difficult one. Higher yields resulting from technological developments, together with shrinkage of foreign markets as a result of war blockades and increased world competition, have brought forth record surpluses of cotton, wheat, tobacco, and corn, even in the face of a number of years of production control.

To correct the situation Agricultural Department officials recently planned marketing controls on the Midwest's two major crops, wheat and corn, control of cotton and tobacco having already been authorized, and this, they said, might be followed by a sharp reduction in planting allotments for 1942. They suggested that control over production and marketing of major crops might be extended far beyond the scope of the past. Later action took corn out of the marketing control category when the government announced that through purchases it would peg the price of hogs at \$9.

The country has had eight years of farm control, which has not worked out as intended. To make it work, more control is proposed. We are reminded of an item carried in our "Foreign" column a short time ago: "Italy's farm production and trade in general have in eighteen years of experimentation been developed into one of the world's most rigid systems of control."

The second view of the farm problem, that of distribution, is relatively new. The food and cotton stamp plan and the subsidized exports of wheat and flour are the only important experiments in it. There are a number of proposals, including the "two-price" system for crops grown in surplus which would give one price to the crops for the domestic market and another, a lower one, to the surplus which would be disposed of to other countries; international commodity agreements between the United States and other surplus-producing countries of the Western Hemisphere to try to avoid cut-throat competition by doling out available markets to the countries concerned and controlling their internal supply; and extension of the food stamp plan to the entire hemisphere so that, for instance, surplus wheat from the United States and surplus bananas from Central America could be distributed to the needy of both countries. Perhaps some of these plans may be tried out.

Distribution has not had proper emphasis in the farm planning. As George Peek, first administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, said, it should be the base of any sound farm program. It should, at least, have precedence over further crop control experimentation.

YOUR ASSOCIATION

THE American National Live Stock Association is your association. Its membership rolls contain the names of thousands of stockmen. If you are not already a member we hope you will join. Dues are reasonable—only one cent a head, with a minimum of \$1.50—and you receive the *American Cattle Producer* each month by virtue of your membership.

If you are already a member, do your best to get us a new one. There are still a great many stockmen who should belong to the association, and there are probably some in your own immediate neighborhood who would be glad to join if you would just say a word to them.

It is through the untiring efforts of the officers and members of the association that the association has developed so rapidly and attained the high position of prestige it enjoys today. By constantly increasing the membership, as we are doing today, the sphere of influence of the association is ever widening.



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The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.

By F. E. MOLLIN

IT IS A GOOD PLACE TO STAY away from. With thousands of new defense workers being added monthly to an already overcrowded city, just why extraordinary efforts should be made to attract new thousands, even temporarily, defies explanation. But the Easter cherry blossom racket is too well established to be easily pushed into the background; so on they came, milling around amidst confusion confounded, many not knowing if and when they would find a place to sleep. Hotels charged all the traffic would bear, neglecting regular customers to reap a rich harvest off the visitors.

The War Picture.—War seems very near at the nation's capital, with Army and Navy offices operating full speed ahead and visitors restricted. Congress rather warily is approaching the convoy issue. Officials charged with the responsibility of initiating tax legislation are now more frank as to plans. They say \$3,500,000,000 in new tax revenue must be raised. Everyone is to pay. And, remember, this is only the beginning. They have a dual purpose in mind in the tax program—(1) needed revenue and (2) check on competitive spending which would tend to boom prices on consumer goods.

Food.—Early effort on defense was along the line of speeding up industrial production. Food supplies were ample and no immediate expansion was thought needed. The importance of food in war has now come to the front with the development of plans under the Lease-Lend Act. Food is being shipped to England in some quantity now, and undoubtedly greater supplies will later be needed. It would therefore seem that our agricultural economy, long burdened with surpluses, may get onto a sounder basis. Already a move to expand production of certain items is under way with what amounts to a price guaranty involved. (See article on this page). It will be better for agriculture if progress is made along this line, stimulating production of certain items needed for export, than blindly to expand all along the line as was done in the last war.

Farm Credit Legislation.—Farm credit officials have been holding informal conferences with various farm groups, seeking to reach an accord on at least certain amendments to existing law. In this way it is hoped that controversial items can be considerably limited. Introduction of amendments carrying administration proposals are expected soon.

S. B. 1030, by Senator Johnson, Colorado.—Hearings on this bill, set for April 24, and with witnesses already officially invited, were abruptly postponed indefinitely, with no satisfactory expla-

nation. Therefore apparently someone "higher up" is exerting influence in this matter.

Farm Legislation.—Chairman Fulmer of the House Agricultural Committee started hearings on April 22. No specific legislation is under consideration, as the farm program for this year seems pretty well mapped out. Plans for future legislation will be discussed.

Price Control Agency.—An executive order recently created a new price control agency to be known as the "Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply." Leon Henderson was named to head the new agency. Executive order directs that all necessary steps should be taken by the agency to prevent price spirals, rising costs of living, profiteering, and hoarding of materials or commodities; that efforts be made to stimulate provisions of supplies for civilian use in a manner not to conflict with military needs; that studies be made of civilian requirements, supplies, and price-trends; that it determine and make public proper prices and charges and constantly inform the OPM as to civilian needs. The order instructs the office to formulate programs designed to assure adequate standards for consumer goods and for stabilization of rents and to study and recommend legislation needed to carry out price and rent control.

Foreign Beef for Army and Navy.—A compromise amendment to the fifth supplemental appropriations bill has been agreed upon in conference. Under it, the Army may not buy foreign products except when "articles of food or clothing grown or produced in the United States or its possessions cannot be procured of satisfactory quality and in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices as and when needed." It is believed that the Navy supply bill will also finally come out with that provision. The compromise amendment was sponsored by Senator Alva B. Adams, of Colorado.

Direct Buying.—Under the measure S. B. 1199, packers could no longer buy their livestock direct but would be forced to purchase it at posted stockyards operating under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture. Yards would be eligible for posting as slaughter livestock markets if located within three

miles of a meat packing plant. The bill, which would amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, was introduced by Senator Gillette of Iowa and is being supported by the United States Live Stock Association. It would require every packer doing an interstate business to purchase all his slaughter requirements on markets coming under supervision of the act. The amendments would not require the posting by the Secretary of Agriculture of any stockyard or holding pen for livestock at which a packer or packers do not, directly or indirectly, purchase livestock for slaughter and where only stockers and feeders, not suitable for immediate slaughter, are handled.

Control of Oils and Fats Exports.—Following presidential action earlier in the year placing copra, coconut oil, and glycerin under export control, fats and oils in mid-April were made subject to the export licensing system. Observers point out that export figures show that substantial quantities of fats and oils from the United States and the Philippines have been reaching Germany. The fats and oils placed under export control have many military uses.

Aid to Britain.—An aid-to-Britain measure may result from the Cullen bill, which would allow importers of certain British commodities, including woolens and linens, to escape certain provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930. The bill, introduced some time ago, was recently being pushed for House Ways and Means Committee action.

Post-War Roads.—During the coming summer a seven-man committee appointed by President Roosevelt will make a comprehensive study of the matter of a post-war system of national highways. The committee's recommendations are expected to show how some of the man power and industrial capacity of the nation can be utilized "to construct a national system of inter-regional highways" when the defense program is over.

GOVERNMENT PEGS PRICES ON FOUR FOOD ITEMS

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE announced recently expansion of the ever-normal granary program into a food program designed to assure ample supplies for the United States, Great



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Britain, and other anti-axis nations. Under the program, production of pork, dairy products, eggs, and poultry will be stimulated through the support of price levels remunerative to producers.

The existing corn loan program for 1941 and 1942 will continue, as will the policy of making loan corn available to producers at the loan rate plus certain carrying charges. Producers in the commercial corn-producing area will be allowed to increase corn acreage up to their usual acreage, but these producers would not receive corn payments. No corn marketing quotas will be considered for the 1941 crop.

Assuming continuation of existing price relationships and taking seasonal price variations into account, the department will make purchases in the open market to support long-term prices (Chicago basis) at levels of approximately \$9 per cwt. for hogs; 31 cents a pound for butter; 15 cents a pound for chickens; and 22 cents a dozen for eggs.

Quick reaction to the government buying program followed on the hog market. Prices soon advanced until \$9 was paid for hogs in Chicago markets.

It was pointed out that the prices would be subject to the customary commercial differentials for market grades and qualities.

The government's purchases in the open market will be used to accumulate reserve supplies of food. These supplies can be used for transfer to the British and other countries under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act; for release upon the market in case of unwarranted speculative price increases; to meet requests from the Red Cross for shipment to war refugee areas; and for direct distribution through school lunch programs or through state welfare departments to public aid families. Arrangements are also being made for coordination of these purchases with those being made for our armed forces.

Under the program, farmers will be urged to: (a) increase pork production by feeding hogs to heavier weights and by increasing farrowing of pigs; (b) increase dairy production by feeding cows more grain and by milking more cows; (c) encourage additional production of poultry by increasing the size of flocks.

Commissioners Leon Henderson and Harriet Elliott said that "The prices set forth in Secretary Wickard's statement are an assurance to consumers as well as producers. Our offices have arranged to keep in close touch with the Department of Agriculture at all stages in this program and to advise with it on purchase and sale operations as these affect prices. In the event of unwarranted or speculative advances, we will not hesitate to ask the liquidation of supplies to maintain price stability. At the same time, we intend to watch processors' and distributors' margins to make certain that there are no increases in these spreads as a consequence of the program."

MARKETS

UPWARD CATTLE SWING EXCEEDED BY HOGS

By H. W. FRENCH

THE UPWARD SWING IN CATTLE prices was overshadowed by the turn in the hog situation in April. When the Department of Agriculture announced on April 3 that it would make purchases in the open market of pork products on the basis of \$9 hogs at Chicago, there was an immediate rise in prices for live hogs. The closing March top was \$8, or 25 cents below the high point of that month, and by April 7 the Chicago limit had been boosted to \$9.10. The government



program will stimulate the production of pork and includes the continuation of the existing corn loan program for 1941 and 1942. It also includes the continuation of the policy of making loan corn available to producers at the loan rate plus carrying charges and allows the producers in the commercial corn producing area to increase corn acreage up to their usual acreage but these producers would not receive corn payments.

Cattle feeders enjoyed a good market most of the month and, although dressed trade did not perform satisfactorily at times, the tendency for live cattle was upward. The Lenten season which has ended and the Jewish holidays which followed were factors in the market, but at the present time the situation looks healthy. Predictions as to the future trend are dangerous and unwise because of the unsettled foreign situation, but apparently cattle feeders have no fear, because they are buying replacement cattle freely wherever and whenever available.

The beef steer market at Chicago at mid-April was mostly strong to 50 cents higher than a month earlier, with some choice light and yearling offerings as much as 75 cents up. Buyers have shown the disposition to lean toward the little cattle, and, although tops are still being made by the bigger animals, it is mainly because they are carrying extreme finish, for which there is a limited urgent need. Fed heifers were generally 25 to 50 cents higher, and all cows were strong to 25 cents higher following a sharp rise the preceding month. Bulls which have been selling well for months continued to push upward and finished strong to 25 cents higher. Calves and vealers were mainly 50 cents to \$1 higher for the period, but such offerings were far more irregular than other classes.

Average cost of all beef steers at Chicago the first week of April was \$10.89 as compared with \$8.81 the corresponding period a year ago. This favorable difference was greater than was noted for the cost of replacement cattle for the same periods. The market has been rather uneven most of the month, and there was a comparatively small supply of common and medium killer steers reported in the "kill," as country buyers frequently stepped in the market and outbid the packers for anything showing a medium covering.

CHOICE-to-prime 1,240-1,335-pound fed steers topped at \$15, but little else was reported upward of \$14, although some 1,166-pound Colorados scored \$14.25. There were many strictly good-to-choice 1,250- to 1,450-pound steers at \$12.65 to \$13.50, but the bulk of all weights landed at \$9.50 to \$12.50. Many of the medium-to-good heavies cleared at \$10.75 to \$11.25 and more highly finished 1,500- to 1,600-pound bullocks were reported at \$11.50 to \$12. Medium-grade light steers were obtained at \$8.50 to \$9.75, in the main, although at one time sales were not uncommon down to \$8.25. Medium-weight and heavy steers were mostly from western Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming, although Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana furnished a fair quota.

Prime Nebraska fed heifers above 1,000 pounds sold occasionally at \$13.25 and some long-fed heavies made \$11.75 to \$12.25. The practical top on choice light heifers was \$11.25 and the bulk ranged from \$9.75 to \$10.75, while common-to-medium grades were secured at \$7.75 to \$9. Cows were very scarce, and, although scattered odd lots of choice grade reached \$9, sales above \$8.25 were in the minority, while medium-to-good lots bulked at \$7.25 to \$8. Cutter cows of strong weight at one time sold as high as \$7, but usually \$6.75 was the limit on this type, with other cutters chiefly around \$6.50. Cannery cows were taken chiefly at \$5.25 to \$5.75 and heavy lots sold as high as \$6. Good heavy sausage bulls were taken mainly at \$8 to \$8.25 and some reached \$8.35, medium kinds selling chiefly from \$7.75 down. Vealers topped at \$13, but as a rule only choice and prime lots from 150 pounds up passed \$11.75, light weights often selling at \$10 to \$11.

Omaha reported prime 1,240-to-1,350-pound steers at \$13.60, and the upper crust of the medium weights fed seven to eight months landed at \$12.75 to \$13, with 925- to 1,400-pound kinds fed five to six months going at \$11.25-\$11.75. Denver witnessed 1,433- to 1,452-pound steers at \$12.80 to \$13, freight paid, and bulk of medium-to-good offerings with less weight scored \$9.50 to \$11. Choice fed yearling steers at Kansas City were noted at \$12 to \$12.25, and choice 1,233-pound Kansas offerings,

fed since last August 1, cleared at \$11.75, while medium-to-good tipped horned 1,340-pound arrivals sold at \$9.60. Steers at Sioux City sold downward from \$11.75.

Choice Colorado heifers at Kansas City were taken at \$11 to \$11.25, and medium-to-choice natives at Omaha went at \$8.75 to \$11.25. Most of the heifers at Denver scored \$9 to \$10.50, but best made \$10.75 to \$10.95. Common-to-good cows at Missouri River markets were most numerous at \$6.35 to \$7.75, although scattered sales were noted at \$8.25 to \$8.50. Medium-to-good sausage bulls at Omaha sold largely at \$7.15 to \$7.65, with lower grade horned westerns at \$6.50 to \$7 and good light native butcher kinds at \$8 to \$8.50.

STOCKER and feeder classes of cattle and calves continued in moderate volume at Chicago and most other markets, although usually at Kansas City the Monday supply included about 75 per cent suitable for country purposes. Prices for steers at mid-April taken from the Chicago market were around 50 cents to \$1 above a month earlier, while she stock on country account was largely 25 cents higher, with stock calves mostly 50 to 75 cents up. Generally speaking, most stocker and feeder classes at other markets were largely strong to 50 cents higher. Country purchases of steers at Chicago the first week of April averaged \$9.74 against \$8.25 a year ago; at Kansas City, \$10.55 and \$8.78, respectively, and at St. Paul, \$8.69 and \$7.22, respectively. Average cost of steers on country account for the first three months of 1941 at Chicago, Kansas City, and St. Paul figured \$9.75, \$10.16, and \$8.60, respectively, against \$8.29, \$8.34, and \$7.19, respectively, the corresponding period last year.

Many of the stockers and feeders at Chicago were southwesterners direct to dealers. Good-to-choice calf weight Oklahoma yearling steers scored \$11. Most of the medium-to-good stocker and feeder steers sold at \$9 to \$10, fleshy 900- to 1,000-pound kinds making \$10.50 and better. Some common and medium offerings sold at \$7.50 to \$8.75. Medium-to-good steers went out from Denver at \$8.50 to \$10.50 and some choice lots of yearlings of very light weight scored \$11.75, fleshy feeders with weight reaching \$11. This market reported calf-weight yearling heifers up to \$10.50 and other sales of little heifers from \$10 down, only a very few calves of any kind going out at \$13 and higher.

One week Kansas City reported a thirty-car string of calves from Oklahoma, with the steer calves selling at \$12.25 and the heifer calves in the string at \$10.50. Other good-to-choice heifer calves at that point made \$9.50 to \$10.75. Bulk of other steer calves went at \$10.50 to \$12.50, but some averaging 459 pounds topped at \$13.75. Yearlings under 600 pounds reached \$13 and other good-to-choice 500- to

600-pound yearlings made \$10.50 to \$12.50, while 625- to 800-pound steers of comparable grades went at \$10.25 to \$12.10. Good-to-choice 850- to 1,085-pound feeders cleared at \$10 to \$11.25, other common-to-good lots making \$7.50 to \$9.75.

Omaha reported medium-to-good steers on country account at \$8.75 to \$10.50 and good-to-choice 775- to 900-pound kinds at \$10.75. Good-to-choice yearlings went out at \$11 to \$12.50. Steer calves sold at \$12 to \$13.25 and heifer calves at \$9.75 to \$10.75. Medium-to-good stock steers at Sioux City made \$8.50 to \$10.25, with a few at \$10.50 to \$10.75. Trade at St. Paul, with the snow off the ground for the first time in five months, was more active, with choice yearlings to \$11 and good-to-choice heifers going out at \$8.75 to \$10. Most medium to fairly good stock cows at Missouri River points made \$6.25 to \$7.25. Fort Worth reported good-to-choice steer calves at \$11 to \$13. Heifer calves at that place reached \$12, but bulk sold downward from \$11. Good-to-choice steers sold at \$9 to \$11.

ELEVEN Corn Belt states on April 1 had an increase of 16 per cent in the number of cattle on feed as compared with a year ago, according to the Department of Agriculture. The number on feed as of April 1 this year was the largest since 1936. Ohio was the only Corn Belt state not showing an increase over a year ago. The total in the eastern Corn Belt was probably the largest for all years and increase over 1940 was 9 per cent. The gain in the western Corn Belt was 19 per cent, but the total in this area was smaller than the heavy feeding years in the pre-drought period. Nearly record feeding was reported for Iowa and Minnesota, but the biggest percentage of increases was in South Dakota and Kansas.

Reports for April show that 72 per cent of the cattle on feed had been on feed since January 1. Indications point to a larger increase in marketings after July 1 than in the period from April through June. The movement of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt for January through March was probably the largest on record for the period.

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The weighted average for the eleven Corn Belt states as of April 1 was 116 per cent.

The movement of cattle and calves from Canada into the United States thus far this year is above that of the same period in 1940, the figures up to April 10 standing at 42,238 and 38,106, respectively. These included some dairy cattle. Some lightweight Canadian beef steers were reported at Buffalo at \$10.10 to \$10.50 and some 1,200- to 1,400-pound kinds made \$11 to \$11.75. St. Paul quoted medium Canadian steers at \$9 to \$9.75 and some medium-to-good bulls at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

HOG prices at Chicago at mid-April were generally 60 to 75 cents higher than a month earlier, although sales at that time ruled around 15 to 25 cents below the best time the first half of the month. Dressed pork trade was well supported, especially for loins, and price advances were sharp. Loins which recently sold at Chicago from \$15 to \$18 were about \$3.50 higher than a year ago. Current tops for live hogs showed approximately the same upturn as compared with a year ago.

Lard values worked upward and more than 2 cents advance was noted recently. Government purchases of lard and pork products have helped considerably. Holdings of lard on April 1 fell over 6,500,000 pounds short of the record holdings of a month ago but still loomed large as compared with a year ago. March slaughter of hogs under federal inspection proved to be smaller than a year ago. Many factors point to a healthy hog market ahead.

The price advances were fairly even on the various weights of hogs and packing sows, although at times heavyweights, which still continue to sell at a discount from the top figure, showed the most upturn. Best butchers were lifted from \$8.50 on April 4 to \$9.10 on April 7, after which the top receded to \$8.75 and later reacted to bring back the \$9 animal. Best offerings at mid-month sold at \$8.90 when the bulk of good-to-choice 180- to 240-pound weights were to be had at \$8.55 to \$8.85; 240- to 270-pound kinds, \$8.40 to \$8.70; 270- to 330-pound lots, \$8.15 to \$8.50. Some good-to-choice 160- to 180-pound butchers went at \$8.15 to \$8.75. Good packing sows bulked at \$7.50 to \$7.85, although some good and choice lightweights were reported to \$8 and above, while medium grade lots with weight went as low as \$7.

Early in April when the \$9.10 hog put in an appearance in Chicago, the top at most Missouri River points was \$9, while Denver reported best butchers as high as \$9.30 and much higher figures prevailed on the west coast. Stock pigs have been scarce in practically every producing area and demand has improved greatly of late, despite rising prices. The sudden upturn in hog prices carried best butchers back to September, 1939, when the beginning of the Euro-

pean war caused a sharp flurry in the market after which the prices slumped sharply.

It is interesting to note that during the fifty-year period, 1891-1940, inclusive, the year's top never happened at Chicago during June or November. The year's top was established nine times in the first quarter, three times in the second quarter, thirty-one times in the third quarter, and seven times in the fourth quarter. Monthly tops in 1919 ranged from \$14.60 to \$23.60 and in 1896 from \$3.50 to \$4.45. Cash corn, No. 2 or better, in 1919 ranged monthly from \$1.22 to \$2.10, as against 19½ to 30½ cents in 1896.

SHEEPHOUSE trade in April was featured by the first arrival of Idaho, California, and Arizona spring lambs at the various markets, as previously this season springs were confined to scattered small lots of natives. The demand proved satisfactory until the Easter requirements were satisfied, and then prices broke sharply. New crop dressed lambs on the eastern seaboard markets outsold the fed kinds, which were weightier, approximately 2 to 3 cents per pound, best of the light weights scoring \$23 to \$24 per cwt. The movement of California spring lambs through Ogden and Salt Lake up to the middle of April was less than 20,000 head, or considerably behind that of a year ago.

Weather and feed conditions in March were not so favorable for the early lamb crop as in January and February, but the development of early lambs was above average, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Continued heavy rainfall in California, Arizona, and Texas and a deficiency of sunshine reduced the feeding value of the abundant new feed and held back the finish of the lambs. In the southeastern and Corn Belt states the spring has been late, with pastures and green feed making little growth during March, but other feed supplies are plentiful.

In the far northwestern states, both feed and weather conditions continued

generally favorable. The condition of early lambs about April 1 was above average in all areas. Fairly heavy marketings of early lambs of above average quality from the middle of April to the middle of June are expected, and grass-fat yearling lambs from Texas will begin to move in volume by the last of April. Producers of new crop lambs will have a much smaller crop of fed lambs to compete with the remainder of the season than was true last year and two years ago, as at mid-April there were fewer than 300,000 lambs in the feed-lots of northern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley, and in the Scottsbluff area.

Fed lambs continued to market at heavy weights, the bulk of the marketings ranging materially above 100 pounds. This naturally made the light lamb in best demand and it commanded a premium grade for grade with the big weights. Around \$11 and above most feeders considered the market satisfactory, but it was hard to "hold the money together" at lower levels. Straggling loads of lambs are still showing up from Kansas wheat pastures, but competition from this source is nil.

Mid-April prices for fed lambs at Chicago were generally 25 to 50 cents lower than a month earlier, while yearling wethers declined 25 cents and slaughter ewes were chiefly 75 cents lower, as previous high levels attracted larger numbers to the markets. Best fed lambs at the high time in April were taken at \$11.25 to \$11.35, but at mid-month nothing was quotable above \$11. Bulk of those weighing 98 pounds and heavier sold around \$10.40 to \$10.85 and the lighter kinds often at \$11 and above. Some from 115 pounds up made \$10 to \$10.25. Shorn lambs were reported at \$8.50 to \$9.50, depending upon the wool growth, and summer shorn offerings sold up to \$10.25. Woolled western ewes reached \$7.50 and natives sold at \$7.25 downward. Woolled yearling wethers topped at \$9.50.

Denver reported early shipments of Arizona spring lambs to \$12.25 and others at \$11.10 to \$12, with Californias at \$10.90 to \$11.25, and first Idahos at \$11.50. Some Californias reached \$12 at Chicago and Omaha. Arizonas and Californias at Kansas City scored \$11 to \$11.10. Natives at various markets were reported at \$12.50 and materially above, some for the specialty Easter trade at Chicago making \$13.50 and higher.

Feeding and shearing lambs were not in large volume and demand was not so urgent as a short time ago, so that prices were shaded somewhat on those available. Shearing lambs at Omaha made \$10 to \$10.75, with some at Denver at \$10.10 and others in Kansas City at \$10 to \$10.15. Feeding lambs were confined usually to odd lots selling below \$10. Bred ewes at Omaha reached \$6.75, as against a practical top of \$7 for slaughter ewes at most Missouri River markets.



WOOL PRICES FIRM; HIDE UNDERTONE GOOD

By H. W. F.

THE OUTLOOK FOR WOOL HAS changed little in the last month. Shearing has been going on in the many sections where wool is produced and contracting of the new clip was done on a basis about in line with levels of earlier in the season. The carryover is known to be smaller than a year ago and current prices should be sustained in the face of increased defense needs.

First sales in the new grease wool market for futures amounted to 750,000 pounds, and according to wool men this is enough to make 5,000 uniforms for our soldiers. The first contract for May delivery was made at 97 cents per pound. Other contracts were placed at 95 cents for July delivery and at 94 cents for arrival in October. The grease wool prices consistently were 23 to 28 cents below prices on like months for "wool tops"—the semi-processed wool which has been traded on a future basis for many years. The spread represents the cost of cleaning and processing wool before it can be made into yarn.

The opening of bids on around 21,000,000 yards of heavy wool fabrics by the United States Army and the issuance of regulations by the Federal Trade Commission governing marking and distribution of wool products had placed mills in position to proceed with manufacture and merchandising for the coming fall-winter season. Judging from bids submitted, the Army will pay 8 to 23 cents a yard more for wool uniforms than last December. This advance reflects a 10 per cent increase in wages which will be effective in May at most plants.

Many mills were sold up for several months ahead and buyers found it difficult to obtain fabrics they usually use. Costs have been moving up rapidly and garments are certain to be more costly unless cheaper fabrics are substituted. Demand for women's wear fabrics was brisk, but actual business was confined chiefly to fall fabrics. Supplies of spring goods for the most part were purchased from jobbers. Prices on new fall lines are 10 to 15 per cent over a year ago.

Preliminary estimates for the period October 1 to March 27 on wool exports from Argentina were 219,000,000 pounds against 178,000,000 pounds a year ago. Of this amount, the movement to the United States was placed at 178,000,000 and 93,000,000, respectively. Little Argentine wool was unsold as of March 22, and the disposal of the entire clip of all descriptions is predicted. Some weakening of the market for less attractive fine wools was reported, but other descriptions held firm with prices unchanged. Demand for second clip and carpet wools was good and shipping space facilities improved.

The wool market at Boston the second week of April was rather quiet, espe-

cially on domestic wools. The finer grades of foreign wools were moderately active. The demand from manufacturers has been restricted largely to fill in for immediate needs. Trading consequently has been limited to a great extent to spot wools or to wools near enough to Boston to be delivered within a few days. A few orders were placed in Australian and other primary foreign markets for wools to be imported for distant future needs. Purchases of foreign wools for near future needs were confined largely to lots that had arrived.

The volume of fleece wools offered for sale was too limited definitely to establish a market. Small quantities of early shorn medium fleeces were offered occasionally and a few lots sold at very firm prices. Mixed grade country packed lots of three-eighths and quarter blood bright fleeces brought mostly around 45 cents, in the grease, delivered to users. While only a few buyers were willing to pay prices up to this level, firmness was maintained because of the small quantities available and the urgent needs of the few users who were in the market.

Scattered sales were closed on French combing length fine territory wools in original bags at around \$1 to \$1.02, scoured basis. These sales comprised spot wools on early shorn clips for immediate shipments from the country. Graded wools generally were quiet and quotations were unchanged compared with the previous week and firm despite the lack of interest of mills in making forward commitments in these wools.

Eight months' Texas wools received a fair demand at 97 cents to \$1, scoured basis, delivered to mills. Twelve months' Texas wools were quiet because of the few lots offered for immediate shipments. Asking prices were unchanged and firm.

DEALERS disputed recent statements that a sudden and sharp rise in hide prices was due to speculative interests. Some reaction was reported but the market recovered immediately and is showing a good undertone with new price advances. Mid-April values were considered largely 1/2 cent higher than a month earlier, and it must be remembered that a rise of 1 1/2 to 2 cents was recorded at that time. Current prices were around \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. above a year ago.

The statistical position may indicate a plentiful supply of hides, but certain stocks are not excessive. The number of hides on hand February 1 was placed at 13,891,000 as compared with 13,029,000 on the corresponding date a year ago. It is the belief that profitable hide prices are of some concern, as production should continue up to normal volume at least in the face of present conditions and future needs for leather.

Current quotations in the East for heavy native steer hides were 13 1/2 cents; heavy Texas steer, 12 1/2 cents; butt brand, 13 cents; heavy native cow, 13 1/2 cents, and Colorado, 12 1/2 cents.

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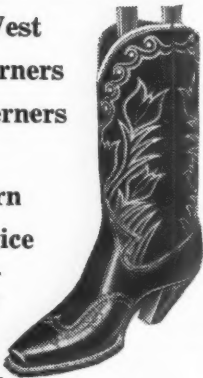
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HOLDINGS ON FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

| | Apr. 1, 1941† | Mar. 1, 1941 | Apr. 1, 1940 | Five-Yr. Av. |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Frozen Beef..... | 73,394,000 | 81,016,000 | 58,713,000 | 59,280,000 |
| Cured Beef*..... | 17,068,000 | 17,428,000 | 13,847,000 | 17,967,000 |
| Lamb and Mutton..... | 4,268,000 | 4,448,000 | 4,257,000 | 3,816,000 |
| Frozen Pork..... | 393,455,000 | 405,524,000 | 323,810,000 | 230,947,000 |
| Dry Salt Pork*..... | 107,311,000 | 109,207,000 | 86,573,000 | 84,890,000 |
| Pickled Pork*..... | 283,784,000 | 277,179,000 | 242,350,000 | 269,325,000 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 82,997,000 | 88,883,000 | 101,181,000 | 83,415,000 |
| Total Meats..... | 962,277,000 | 983,685,000 | 830,731,000 | 749,640,000 |
| Lard..... | 310,725,000 | 317,431,000 | 268,777,000 | 162,677,000 |
| Frozen Poultry..... | 126,885,000 | 163,321,000 | 115,442,000 | 95,013,000 |
| Creamery Butter..... | 8,987,000 | 16,462,000 | 8,875,000 | 22,955,000 |
| Eggs (case equivalent)..... | 2,903,000 | 1,599,000 | 2,117,000 | 2,811,000 |

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

| | Apr. 15, 1941 | Mar. 14, 1941 | Apr. 15, 1940 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)..... | \$12.50-14.50 | \$12.00-14.00 | \$11.25-12.50 |
| Slaughter Steers—Good..... | 10.50-12.50 | 10.00-12.25 | 9.50-11.25 |
| Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)..... | 12.50-14.50 | 12.25-14.00 | 11.25-12.50 |
| Slaughter Steers—Good..... | 10.50-12.50 | 10.25-12.25 | 9.50-11.25 |
| Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)..... | 8.75-10.75 | 8.75-10.25 | 8.00- 9.50 |
| Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)..... | 10.75-14.50 | 12.25-13.75 | 11.25-12.50 |
| Heifers—Good-Choice..... | 10.50-13.25 | 9.75-12.50 | 9.25-11.25 |
| Cows—Good..... | 8.00- 9.00 | 8.00- 8.75 | 7.00- 7.75 |
| Vealers—Good-Choice..... | 10.50-12.50 | 9.50-11.50 | 9.50-11.00 |
| Calves—Good-Choice..... | 8.00-10.00 | 8.00- 9.50 | 8.00- 9.00 |
| Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch..... | 9.75-12.00 | 9.25-11.00 | 8.25-10.25 |
| Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med..... | 7.75-10.00 | 7.50- 9.25 | 6.75- 8.25 |
| Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)..... | 8.60- 8.90 | 7.70- 8.05 | 5.35- 5.60 |
| Lambs—Good-Choice..... | 10.50-11.00 | 10.05-11.10 | 10.75-11.00 |
| Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice..... | 8.75- 9.50 | 9.00- 9.65 | |
| Ewes—Good-Choice..... | 6.50- 7.50 | 5.75- 6.60 | 4.25- 5.50 |

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES

| | Apr. 15, 1941 | Mar. 14, 1941 | Apr. 15, 1940 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| FRESH BEEF AND VEAL— | | | |
| Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)..... | \$17.50-19.50 | \$18.00-20.00 | \$15.50-17.00 |
| Steer—Good..... | 16.00-17.50 | 16.00-18.00 | 13.50-15.50 |
| Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)..... | 17.00-19.50 | 17.00-20.00 | 15.50-17.00 |
| Steer—Good..... | 15.50-17.50 | 15.00-18.00 | 13.50-16.00 |
| Yearling Steer—Choice..... | 17.00-19.00 | 17.00-19.00 | 16.00-17.00 |
| Yearling Steer—Good..... | 15.50-17.00 | 15.00-17.00 | 14.00-16.00 |
| Cow—Commercial..... | 13.50-14.50 | 13.00-14.00 | 12.00-13.00 |
| Veal and Calf—Choice..... | 16.50-18.00 | 16.00-18.00 | 15.00-16.00* |
| Veal and Calf—Good..... | 14.00-16.50 | 13.00-16.00 | 13.00-15.00* |
| FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON— | | | |
| Lamb—Choice (all weights)..... | 15.00-18.00 | 14.50-17.50 | 18.50-21.00† |
| Lamb—Good..... | 14.00-17.00 | 13.50-17.00 | 17.50-20.00† |
| Ewe—Good..... | 10.00-11.00 | 8.00- 9.00 | 9.00-10.00 |
| Ewe—Commercial..... | 9.00-10.00 | 7.00- 8.00 | |
| FRESH PORK CUTS— | | | |
| Loin—8-12-lb. average..... | 17.00-18.00 | 15.50-17.00 | 15.50-16.50 |

* Veal. † 55 pounds down.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCK YARDS

| | 1941 | 1940 | First Three Months 1941 | 1940 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|
| RECEIPTS— | | | | |
| Cattle*..... | 1,063,288 | 917,866 | 3,130,065 | 2,893,083 |
| Calves..... | 439,451 | 441,466 | 1,286,250 | 1,278,138 |
| Hogs..... | 2,649,243 | 2,710,474 | 8,201,646 | 9,404,424 |
| Sheep..... | 1,520,252 | 1,440,234 | 4,657,194 | 4,593,042 |
| TOTAL SHIPMENTS†— | | | | |
| Cattle*..... | 395,003 | 344,843 | 1,168,747 | 1,024,954 |
| Calves..... | 148,790 | 171,232 | 472,764 | 471,762 |
| Hogs..... | 699,896 | 749,366 | 2,276,364 | 2,598,065 |
| Sheep..... | 631,546 | 619,946 | 1,917,705 | 1,832,610 |
| STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS— | | | | |
| Cattle*..... | 194,783 | 163,949 | 563,307 | 445,267 |
| Calves..... | 56,021 | 50,580 | 174,033 | 132,524 |
| Hogs..... | 47,806 | 49,412 | 153,307 | 139,531 |
| Sheep..... | 130,796 | 88,610 | 407,281 | 291,846 |
| SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION— | | | | |
| Cattle*..... | 766,298 | 721,163 | 2,374,000 | 2,263,000 |
| Calves..... | 444,190 | 439,979 | 1,239,000 | 1,234,000 |
| Hogs..... | 3,904,400 | 3,981,172 | 12,146,000 | 13,614,000 |
| Sheep..... | 1,408,371 | 1,265,590 | 4,423,000 | 4,177,000 |

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

TENNESSEE IS MAKING PROGRESS EVERYWHERE

By DAVID I. DAY

LEAVING MEMPHIS AT 6 A. M., IT was a marvelous morning drive eastward to the Shiloh Battlefield. Out of Shelby County, through Fayette County, and into Hardeman County we sped by the modern magic of gasoline, to breakfast in the excellent town of Bolivar. After breakfast into McNairy County, of which Selmer—population 957—is the county seat.



All along the Mississippi line, considering the natural advantages of the region, possibly the advance in cattle production has been nothing to brag of. The same can be said of poultry, of hogs, of dairying. But the folks are now beginning to wake up. I predict that in another five years there will be a great change there. There are just enough successful business folks in town to encourage the farm folks—which seems in Selmer to be particularly true of the membership of the local Lions Club.

The entire morning drive had been made hastily, but we saw no signs of any particular efforts along the line of dry-lot cattle feeding. Some farms had sires, mostly Herefords, which looked to be of good quality as seen in barn lots and pastures. When we arrived in McNairy County, I could not learn of a single beef cattle feeder on a commercial scale. About a half dozen men are laying the foundations of good purebred Hereford herds and out of this may grow the commercial beef feeding which should be going on there now. This will start in the central and northern parts of the county, local farmers predicted, around Selmer and Adamville.

So into Savannah, a little town of more than 1,500 inhabitants, where pretty much the same situation prevails regarding beef cattle as in McNairy County. I believe there have been beginnings made, however, in both McNairy and Hardin Counties which will blossom into more progressive animal husbandry in the days to come.

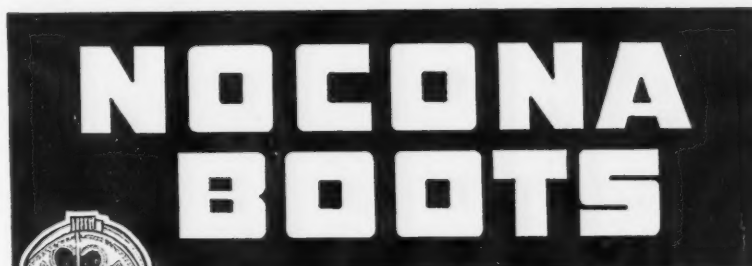
From Savannah it is about twelve miles south to the historic battlefield. Here on April 6 and 7, 1862, the Battle of Shiloh was fought, among the dense woodlands, farm clearings, and wet ravines of that time between the Confederates under General Albert Sidney Johnston and the Union troops under General U. S. Grant. It is said that the Confederates lost 11,000 men, including their great commander, while the Union forces lost 13,047. The dead of both

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- that's what the breeder sees when he buys his bulls from you.
- that's your biggest factor in successful cattle operation.
- that's what you get when you use

WHR bulls

**WYOMING
HEREFORD RANCH**

Cheyenne, Wyo.

sides were buried on the field but later the northern soldiers were removed to the National Cemetery. The southern lads still sleep where they fell—in five different trenches scattered over the field, each trench now surrounded by a concrete enclosure. If the soldiers in blue and gray could return to earth, they would certainly be astonished at what has happened to their battlefield. Twenty-seven miles of beautiful modern driveways have been built over the 3,583 acres of ground. All points of historic significance appear to have been marked. There are 128 beautiful monuments erected. There is a museum, with battlefield relics and the National Cemetery of ten acres. I was much impressed by the fact that of 3,649 graves, exactly 2,414 contain the remains of men whose names were unknown.

THEN to Waynesboro and Lawrenceburg, and into Columbia—population approximately 11,000—the most interesting little city in the most interesting county, to my mind, in all Tennessee. The locality is fairly saturated with history. It is the boyhood home of President James K. Polk. A monument is there to game old Ed Geers, the harness horse driver, who added materially to the fame of Tennessee pacers. All sorts of farming is carried on in the surrounding communities of Maury County.

Probably the greatest day in each of

Columbia's years is the Mule Day, held early in April—the largest hybrid festival on the face of the earth. All was agog with preparations when we were there, and later it was a privilege to see the big event in action a couple of hours on April 7. The parade, the prizes, the mule circus, the street shows and dance put this event in a class to itself—worth driving 500 miles to see any spring.

Figures on Maury County show an area of 382,484 acres of farmland. Of this acreage, 198,090 acres is cropland. There are possibly 75,000 acres of rotation pasture in the county and 110,000 acres of permanent pasture. All around Columbia and Spring Hill are any number of purebred Hereford breeders. In the vicinity of Santa Fe, Lewisburg, and Mt. Pleasant are excellent purebred Shorthorn herds. All over the county are beautiful herds of Jerseys. In the neighborhoods of Columbia, Williamsport, Carter's Creek, Spring Hill, and Hampshire are a long list of commercial cattle feeders.

One of the most unusual features of Maury County is the fact that, in addition to the purebred breeders, the commercial cattle finishers, all the various forms of animal husbandry exemplified around Columbia, there are fully 300 men who specialize in grass-fed cattle, marketed as feeders to the owners of commercial feed-lots locally and at a distance. True to the high standards prevailing along various lines in that section of the country, the quality of the feeder calves grown there averages high, indeed.

Further to illustrate how livestock conscious these farmers are in south of Nashville, it is only necessary to add that there are in Maury County alone somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 ewes used for breeding purposes. The majority are northwestern sheep originally, possibly from Montana and Wyoming, and these ewes when crossed with high-quality Hampshire rams are certainly producing market lambs of high vigor and value.

Now, while this region produces a great many stockers and feeders for local and out-county feed-lots, a good many outside feeder calves are brought into Maury County every year. It is a common thing to find commercial feeder folk in that part of Tennessee who feel they do better with southwestern calves and insist upon getting at least a portion of their supply from the highlands of Texas. Others like the kind of calves they obtain from Missouri. Regardless of where the calves are got, they have plenty of grain, grass, and hay—and, when the long-feds go from here to Nashville, Louisville, or Cincinnati, they are usually able to make the cattle buyers loosen up.

In brief, there in the old historic section of Maury County, where bluegrass grows luxuriantly, you may see a community which in cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and in all kinds and types of

horses and mules, has everything it takes to hold and increase the fame it has won.

OVER a beautiful highway we drive in a little while into the adjoining county of Williamson, with Franklin, a city of some 4,200 people, as the county seat. It is another historic spot, where the Battle of Franklin was fought in the Civil War—out of the ordinary because six Confederate generals lost their lives in it. Still maintained is the home there of John H. Eaton, Secretary of War under Jackson, husband of the noted Peggy O'Neil, center of all the social scandal talk among the cabinet women which sorely tried the soul of Old Hickory. Fine cattle feeders live around close to Franklin and in the College Grove and Allison communities. Everyone said that more and more beef cattle fattening was going on each year.

One fact struck me as interesting and unusual. Most of the feeder calves were coming from Alabama, purchased from the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company. The insurance folks seem to have some extensive land holdings in the state to the south upon which they grow excellent beef calves. However, a number of the calves on feed in Williamson County now are purchased at the stockyards in Nashville. A majority of the cattle seen on feed were good-quality whitefaces. A majority of the finished cattle are marketed at Nashville, next-door city, but some like to market at Louisville. Speaking of the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, we might add that it operates a purebred breeding plant in Williamson County, one of the three purebred cattle breeding establishments in the county. The other two are operated by members of the well-known Bond family.

Like the county to the south of it, this is another prominent dairy region and it is a red-hot center of Jersey enthusiasm. You see Jersey cattle on many a hill between Franklin and Nashville. Around Nashville very little evidence of beef cattle feeding is to be seen—a few carloads here and there on feed, mostly Herefords originally hailing from Texas; a few purebred herds of Herefords around the city but no Shorthorns.

We spent an afternoon and night in Nashville and, though somewhat disappointed with what we saw in cattle feeding and breeding in Davidson County, certainly there is no shortage of interesting places to visit. There is the Hermitage where Jackson lived and died, the noted Capitol Building, the old Maxwell House, numerous universities, and the stockyards.

THEN on to Gallatin, county seat of Sumner County, where fine horses, fine cattle, and other fine livestock have been developed for more than a century. Aside from one or two communities in

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Maury County, purebred and grade Shorthorns seem to be more numerous in certain parts of Sumner County, in the vicinity of Hendersonville, than elsewhere visited in the state. Some of these reds, whites, and roans really demonstrate the scale, the weight-for-age, the fast-growing propensities of that old breed, and probably there will be more of this kind seen there next trip. Excellent purebred Hereford herds are found around Gallatin and Castalian Springs. All over the county are good cattle feeders, most of them preferring Texas calves.

Good grass country is this, with considerable grain grown, too, so the indications are that cattle feeding will show a marked increase if all market conditions remain much as they are. One farmer told me he had fed Texas steers for fifteen years and intended to increase his calf purchases next fall if the situation continued as it seems that it will do. Said he: "I've been a little nervous about loading too heavily, being afraid there would be an oversupply of finished beef cattle. My revised opinion is that we can safely expand to a reasonable extent for a couple of years yet, at least."

My final stop was in the pleasant town of Portland—about 1,200 population—near which Opie Read, my favorite boyhood author, was reared. His old home place was widely known later and to this day as a tree nursery, developing all sorts of trees and shrubs. Some of the world's finest strawberries are grown there and some of the good hill farmers produce some good beef, too.

So across the state line into Kentucky, the first stop being Franklin, another noted mule town. Next we will tell where we went from there and report generally on the cattle situation as we find it in the Bluegrass State—"where the corn is full of kernels and the colons full of corn."

ACTIVE DEMAND FOR OSAGE AND FLINT HILLS PASTURES

FAIRLY ACTIVE DEMAND EXISTS for Osage and Flint Hills pastures in Oklahoma and Kansas and a larger percentage of the pastures are leased than a year ago, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. A larger number of cattle were wintered over than a year ago, and present prospects are that the pastures will be fairly well stocked. Movement from the Southwest to the pastures may not be so large as last spring.

Condition of the pastures is the best in years, with ample stock water and good supplies of soil moisture. Lease prices in the Flint Hills are a little higher than last year; Osage prices are about the same. Acreage guarantees per head are smaller than last year and recent years. The smaller acreage guar-

antees reflect better pasture conditions and recovery of pastures from the effects of the dry years.

About 73 per cent of the Blue Stem pastures had been leased by April 1, 1941. This compares with 65 per cent last year. Condition of the pastures is the highest since 1931. Soil moisture conditions are good. Ponds are mostly filled. Water is ample in springs and streams. New feed has been slow in developing, due to cold weather; but the grass prospects are very favorable. Lease prices are slightly higher than the last two years but lower than in 1937 and 1938. Most lease prices for steers and cows are \$5 to \$7.50 per head, and for

young cattle, \$3.50 to \$5. Acreage guarantees for steers and cows run from 4.5 to 6.5 acres per head, and for young cattle, 3.5 to 5 acres.

About 85 per cent of the Osage pastures were leased by April 1, 1941, compared with 77 per cent last year. Condition is the highest since 1929. Stock water is abundant and moisture conditions are the best in over ten years. Cattle will go on grass at about the normal time. Lease prices for steers and cows range from \$5 to \$7 per head, and for young cattle, from \$3 to \$5. Acreage guarantees for steers and cows range from 4.5 to 7 acres per head; 3 to 5.5 acres for young cattle.

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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVESTOCK AND RANGE REPORT FAVORABLE

WESTERN RANGES ON APRIL 1 were well supplied, generally speaking, with old feed, and prospects for new feed were very favorable, according to the Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Ranges were in the best condition in ten years. Livestock wintered well.

Condition of ranges during March improved seasonally, due to favorable moisture conditions. Moisture in the southern Great Plains and the Southwest was the best in several years. Kansas and Oklahoma enjoyed good soil moisture, and the prospect for spring feed delayed by cool weather was good. Soil moisture was in good supply in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, and new feed was well started in the southern and earlier sections. Southern Arizona had the best range feed in many years. In the northern Great Plains, old feed was reported as fair to good; moisture was needed in Montana, western South Dakota, and parts of Wyoming. Fair old feed with ample moisture to start new grass characterized western Nebraska. Colorado had fair to good old feed and ample soil moisture.

Feed conditions were good to very good west of the main range. Very good feed was reported in California, and prospects for summer feed were very favorable. Range and moisture conditions were good to very good in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; moisture was lacking to some extent in that section during March, but relief came in early April rains. Utah and Nevada reported range and moisture good to very good.

Supplemental feeding was not heavy in March, but some was necessary in parts of Wyoming, Nebraska, northern New Mexico, and other local areas.

Condition of ranges on April 1 was 85 per cent, compared with 83 on March 1, 79 a year ago, and 77 for the ten-year (1931-40) average.

Cattle wintered in good to very good condition. Losses were light. There were a few thin cattle in south-central Texas and in other limited local areas, but breeding stock was generally in strong condition. Calf crop prospects were good. Cattle for spring shipment in northern and western Texas wintered well. Cattle in southern Arizona were making rapid gains and good finish. California grass-fat beef will be very good from May to August, but finishing has been delayed in some areas by soft feed. Generally speaking, there was a strong demand for stocker and feeder cattle, with only a limited tendency to sell at relatively high prices.

Condition of cattle and calves on April 1 was 86 per cent, compared with 85 on March 1, 81 a year ago, and 81 for the 1931-40 average.

Sheep wintered well. Death losses were below normal. Ewe bands were in good flesh and late lambing prospects were favorable—barring spring storms. March weather was generally favorable on desert ranges. Texas sheep conditions were good, although March storms were hard on freshly shorn sheep and young lambs. Lambs had been contracted for late summer and early fall delivery in Oregon; a few contracts were for fall delivery in Montana. Wool contracting continued active during early March, with activity limited later in the month.

Sheep and lamb condition on April 1 was 89 per cent, compared with 88 on March 1, 87 a year ago, and 85 for the 1931-40 average.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

MEAT EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY reached an all-time low for the month, while beef imports climbed to the highest point since 1919. Meat imports during February exceeded exports by 7,035,609 pounds. During February last year exports exceeded imports by 22,101,315 pounds. February meat exports totaled 3,852,319 pounds, compared with 29,449,184 pounds in February, 1940. During the first two months of 1941, exports of all meat products totaled 7,130,411 pounds, against 59,361,159 pounds in the first two months of 1940. Volume of beef (including canned) imported into the United States during February was the greatest for any February in twenty-two years and totaled 9,275,081 pounds, compared with 8,555,376 pounds in January and 6,823,303 pounds in February, 1940. Imports of fresh beef (nearly all from Cuba) were 2,761,256 pounds in February and 3,002,217 pounds in January, compared with 171,794 pounds received during February a year earlier. Fresh beef imports for the first two months of this year were 5,763,473 pounds, against 307,079 pounds in the corresponding period of 1940. Canned beef from Argentina made up most of the balance of beef imports. Beef and veal imports totaled 17,830,457 pounds in the first two months of 1941, compared with 15,533,867 pounds in 1940.

HIDE STOCKS NOT EXCESSIVE

Liquidation and sharp price reaction followed the recent statement by Leon Henderson, of the Price Stabilization Bureau of the National Defense Advisory Commission, that a 1½ to 2 cents per pound advance in spot and future hide markets was not warranted and appeared to be speculation. However, sufficient demand developed on the peak to bring recovery and, in fact, new high prices for futures. Although the statistical position may indicate a plentiful

supply of hides, hide stocks are not excessive, and it is harmful to create the impression that they are, explains the *National Provisioner*. Hide and leather men, says the packer magazine, have expressed the opinion that stocks of 15,000,000 hides would be a comfortable load for the market under present expected expansion of demand for the product. February 1, 1941, stocks were 13,891,000, compared with 13,029,000 a year earlier, and 13,605,000 on February 1, 1939. This subject is further discussed in an article on page 10.

FAVORS LIVESTOCK PICK-UP

A brief recently filed by the Secretary of Agriculture with the Interstate Commerce Commission contends that truck pick-up of livestock by the railroads should be encouraged rather than discouraged. Such pick-up service was inaugurated by western railroads several years ago; livestock was transported from farm to market at the regular rate when the producer's farm or ranch was located within a designated distance of a rail station. The ICC decided in 1940 that the rates and service were unlawful, but has reopened the case for reconsideration.

TRUCK LOAD LIMIT RAISED

Texas has abolished its 7,000-pound truck load limit in favor of scientific standards using the formula of 700 (length plus 40) with a maximum gross weight of 38,000 pounds. Thus the "worst weight bottleneck existing as a trade barrier in any state is corrected." The recent trend toward raising size and weight limits for trucks is seen also in a new Tennessee law which increases gross weight limit from 24,000 to 30,000 pounds. A Vermont law substitutes 650 pounds per inch of tire width in lieu of a 16,000-pound axle limit. A South Dakota law permits overlength and overweight operations in order to furnish transportation facilities to communities where service has been abandoned by the railroads. Several other states have also passed laws providing for increases in weight.

GLAMOUR FOR THE FORESTS

"One old-time cattleman told us recently that a Forest Service officer had come to him and said he must move a corral because it looks bad from the road and is an eyesore to people touring through. He said it was a hazard and it should be back out of sight. It seems there is a 'scenic strip' program which they are trying to put into effect to keep the roads clear of anything for 100 feet on either side, and we don't blame them, either; but in this particular place there are comparatively few people traveling, so we think it is going a little far to ask that the corral be moved, especially

as it's stood there and been used continuously since 1887. It is a landmark in the country. One might say there are inconsistencies when all over the country most people are spending lots of energy and money to make new things look old and when something authentically old is found, some people want it moved out of sight. If this cowman moved the corral at all he would have to go three-quarters of a mile, as there is no suitable place nearer than that. As it is now, it has served his purpose well for fifty-four years."—ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER.

BUILDS CANNED MEAT PLANT

The Cudahy Packing Company recently completed at Omaha a canned meat and sausage manufacturing unit, costing approximately \$350,000. The building is five stories high, with a ground area of approximately 20,000 square feet, and is equipped with the latest meat canning and sausage making machinery. The first Cudahy factory was opened in Omaha in 1890.

WOOL FOR BRITAINS

In a project at Rawlins, Wyoming, undertaken under official auspices in the interest of war relief in America, more than 2,000 woolgrowers in Wyoming will contribute part of their fleeces to the branches of Bundles for Britain in that state. The effort is one of the numerous operations over the nation by Bundles for Britain branches to assist in supplying 200,000 blankets which the American Gifts Committee of London recently requested Bundles for Britain to supply. The quantity anticipates the needs of British refugees for a period of about six months.

BROCK VISITS SOUTH AMERICA

J. Elmer Brock, president of the American National Live Stock Association, was one of five representatives of several United States farm groups who left New York on April 11 to confer with agricultural leaders in South American countries on a trip sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Other members of the group are Howard Hill, member of the Iowa Farm Bureau, of Minburn, Iowa; James Patton, president of Farmers' Union, Denver, Colorado; Theodore W. Schultz, professor of agricultural economics, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa; and Harry E. Terrell, secretary of Economic Policy Committee, Des Moines, Iowa. According to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the endowment, "the purpose of the trip is to establish personal contacts between the farm leaders of the United States and the southern countries and to make possible a first-hand observation of local conditions and the problems with which farm and ranch interests in these countries are faced." The group will visit estancias, or farms, in several districts

of Argentina and will make similar visits to farm districts in Uruguay and Brazil. It will also study processing plants and agricultural experiment stations in various countries. The group will return to New York on June 16.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

RATIONING WAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED in China for the first time, with Chungking, the war-time capital, the only city affected. . . . Ration cards for restaurant meals have been introduced in Switzerland to prevent any invasion of the rationing scheme. . . . Ration cards were introduced in Vatican City recently for all inhabitants. The Pope receives a ration just under half an ounce of meat a day. . . . With the Swedish government's recent action to prevent excessive livestock slaughter, rationing of meat in that country became effective.

MEAT SURPLUS

Australia and New Zealand are taking steps to avoid a surplus of meat caused by curtailment of purchase by the United Kingdom. Steps considered are reported as including an increase of storage space, adoption of new cutting and packing methods to save shipping space, development of new export outlets to the Far East, and expansion of the meat canning industry. Numbers in Australia in 1940 and percentage of increases over 1914 are reported as follows: Cattle, 13,100,000, (14 per cent more than in 1914); hogs, 1,364,000 (70 per cent); sheep, 116,500,000 (31 per cent). In New Zealand the figures are: cattle, 4,533,000 (88 per cent); sheep, 31,063,000 (25 per cent); hogs, 714,000 (140 per cent).

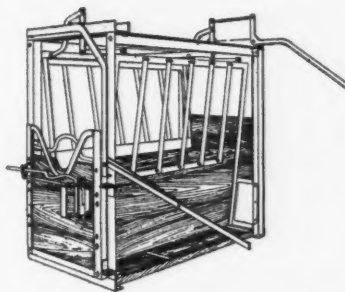
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS DOWN

Before the outbreak of the war, Alsace and Lorraine, with their fertile fields and extensive meadows, supported 106,000 milk cows, 43,000 horses, 132,000 pigs, and 40,000 sheep, according to *Foreign Commerce Weekly*. As a consequence of the evacuation in 1939 and the first half of 1940, 21,000 horses, 52,000 cows, 37,000 oxen, 57,000 pigs, 14,000 sheep, 5,000 goats, and 350,000 head of poultry were lost to the Germans, according to Berlin reports. Since then some livestock has been brought into the region from France, Germany, and Denmark.

BUYS SURPLUS CORN

The Argentine government recently announced that it would spend 150,000,000 pesos (one peso, about 23.25 cents) to buy the country's new corn crop. Stocks already total about 6,500,000 tons—an ample amount for the coming year. Therefore, it is reported, the corn bought by the government may be left to rot in the granaries.

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LETTERS (CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and they didn't like it a little bit. He has good hay, too. The range has been in top shape all winter, and all classes of stock wintered in fine shape. Anything with hoofs on is in big demand, at a long price, especially so on the she stuff.—FRED LA ROCQUE, Mountrail County, N. D.

LIGHT WINTER

We have had a very light winter in this section of Idaho. The spring is very backward, with dry, cold winds. If we do not get some good rains soon, we will have no grass.—D. I. FOREMAN, Owyhee County, Ida.

GRASS STARTING

We have had an open winter here in western North Dakota. It has been below zero only a few times. Grass is starting now. The government cattle

testers [for Bang's disease, we presume] are at work just north of our township in this county. We are expecting them here soon. They are not finding many suspects so far.—CLYDE W. MYERS, Golden Valley County, N. D.

LOTS OF RAIN

Cattle have wintered in good shape, with no loss to speak of. We are having lots of rain. I enjoy reading the PRODUCER.—T. O. SORELLE, Kent County, Tex.

WETTEST IN YEARS

Greenlee County is the wettest it has been for years. Cattle wintered very well and indications point to a heavy calf crop.—JAMES A. COSPER, Ariz.

PRETTY WELL STOCKED

This has been one of the nicest winters I have ever seen, and all livestock show

it. Our ground is in the best condition it has been for moisture since 1933. The reservoirs have more water in them than usual, but a lot of springs that used to be good are still dry. Most of our ranges are in very good shape. We are getting pretty well stocked.—FRED T. YONKEE, Sheridan County, Wyo.

LOW WATER

We have had a mild winter. Livestock is in fine condition; calving losses are light. We are just having a good rain now. Snow in the mountains is scant. The mountain creeks are the lowest in water I have ever seen. We will need a lot of rain this spring.—F. E. RITTEL, Lewis and Clark County, Mont.

OPEN WINTER

We had a very open winter here—not much snow, wind, or cold weather. Stock of all kinds wintered well. But we are going to need a lot of rain here this spring. It was the driest year I have ever seen here, and I have been here for thirty-five years. I do not want to be without the PRODUCER. It is a very good paper.—ARTHUR GIFFORD, Lyman County, S. D.

BEST PROSPECTS

We have the best prospect for early spring feed in this section that we have had for several years. There is also a good demand at good prices for all classes of cattle and sheep.—J. R. CANNING, Concho County, Tex.

SPRING IS HERE

I reside near the northeastern entrance of Yellowstone Park, in Wyoming. We have had very little winter here. There is plenty of hay, and the ranges are bare of snow. Stock has never wintered in better shape in these mountains. It looks as if spring is here.—FRED WRIGHT, Park County, Wyo.

PRICES OKEH

Range conditions are good. Livestock wintered well with no losses. Prospects for summer range are good. Prices are okeh.—R. W. COWLES, Washoe County, Nev.

WORTH IT

You will find enclosed one dollar in money order for the coming months of this year. You asked me if it was worth it. I'll say it is!—ANTON GORNICK, Jr., Sweetwater County, Wyo.

FINE RAINS

We have had very fine rains, and the outlook is certainly favorable for a good spring.—RICHARD KING, Nueces County, Tex.

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